

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

WWW.OSWESTRYCHRONICLE.COM

70P WHERE SOLD

Doubts emerge over £13 million schools project

A MULTI-million pound scheme to build two new primary schools has been thrown into doubt.

Ysgol Maesydre is one of the sites allocated for the integrated redevelopment of junior provision in Welshpool, housing a 150-pupil Welsh medium school. Another site near the high school would become an English medium for 300 children.

The £13 million project had been given the go-ahead but an unknown person has since asked CADW, which looks after historical buildings, to give Maesydre listed building status. Plaid Cymru councillor Elwyn Vaughan said: "This seems a clear attempt by someone to disrupt the implementation of a major investment in Welshpool, a much welcomed

investment, supported by parents, Powys County Council and the Welsh Government.

"It is understood the application for listed building status was made on November 27 and Powys County Council has until January 2 to present an argument as to why it should not be listed.

"The application to list the site is

made on the basis of the school being the first designed by a specific architect and due to its 'architectural style'."

The council is currently preparing its response to CADW.

Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, cabinet member for education, said: "Whilst we fully recognise the historic importance of this building

and its contribution to the life of the town, we must look to the future.

"The plans for the new schools in Welshpool have been carefully drawn up together and it would be regrettable if anything were to delay this ambitious project. The sooner all our primary pupils in Welshpool can benefit from high standard accommodation in which to learn, the better."

MERGER DEAL 'TO BOOST LEARNING'

Report by Jonny Drury

A MERGER deal by Oswestry's North Shropshire College will provide a bright future for education in the town, delighted bosses have said.

Bosses have announced the college is looking to merge with Herefordshire and Ludlow College next year to "secure a sustainable and prosperous future".

The news comes just months after a merger with Reaseheath College in Nantwich fell through at the 11th hour, after 18 months of talks.

The new merger deal would widen the catchment area and signals a bright future for further education in the town and surrounding areas, according to interim principal Ian Clinton.

He said: "It wasn't essential we merged but it will certainly give a bright future to education in the area. It is great to be part of a larger organisation, and will benefit the students greatly."

The confirmation of the new merger proposal came on Thursday last week. Mr Clinton said it will allow the colleges to pool resources together to offer more courses to students in both organisations.

He added: "It will mean there will be more finances as we only need one principal, one finance director. It is just going to be helpful for the students moving forward."

Mr Clinton also revealed this week there was more good news for the college. He said a positive letter had been received from Ofsted after a follow-up inspection. Mr Clinton added: "It was great to hear we had met objectives, there is more work to do but it was a very positive response."

● Future – See Page 2

Some monkey magic at fundraising winter ball



Joanne Richards of Whittington and daughter Nicole Humphreys say hello to the gorilla sculpture at the fundraising ball

THERE was some monkeying around at a charity ball near Oswestry.

More than 460 people attended the Winter Wonderland Ball at the British Ironwork Centre in support of the Macmillan cancer charity.

The event raised more than £20,000 for the charity, delighting the organisation's bosses.

The ball was held for a fourth year, with all money going towards funding Macmillan professionals within Shropshire.

Some of the money was raised through an auction, which had a surprise lot.

The British Ironwork Centre agreed to sell off one of its silver gorillas. The centre's collection of gorillas follows in the footsteps of the business's huge Spoon Gorilla which was famously made by the firm for TV entertainer and magician Uri Geller.

Thousands of spoons were used to fashion that gorilla. Kate Thomas, Shropshire fundraising manager for the charity, said she was

delighted with how the event went and also the way the British Ironwork Centre had worked hard to ensure the night was memorable. She said: "It was an amazing night. We had a band, so there was live music, a cocktail bar – it was a great night."

"The money will go towards helpful people affected by cancer. We've got around 40 specialists in Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Telford which this money will help fund."

● Charity – See Page 24

ENTERTAINMENT

Council bosses to 'look at options' over panto storm

SHROPSHIRE Council has said it is exploring a number of options after complaints that Theatre Severn's panto performances went ahead on Sunday despite many ticket holders, including some from the Oswestry area, being unable to attend due to the weather.

A depleted crowd watched Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The theatre has said no refunds would be given. Councillor Lezley Picton, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for culture and leisure, said: "We recognise that a number of customers didn't attend the Sunday shows and will be disappointed."

"Theatre staff alongside Evolution Productions are therefore looking at other options, including alternative dates in January 2018, and we hope to update our customers as soon as possible." Kelly Evans from Oswestry was one of a party of 11 who managed to brave the weather and attend the production.

Writing on the theatre's social media page, she said: "The top section was practically empty, the middle looked sparse as did the stalls. People tried to look happy but the lack of enthusiasm by the audience was palpable."

● Havoc – See Page 3

TECHNOLOGY

Broadband speeds not streets ahead

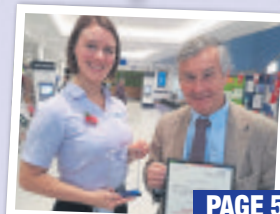
TWO streets in Shropshire are among some of the worst in the UK for broadband speeds.

Thomas Pension Road in Gobowen near Oswestry, and Slade Lane in Homer near Much Wenlock, are in the slowest 30 streets in the country.

According to the data, Thomas Pension Road was the 20th worst, reaching a download speed of 1.049Mbps while Slade Lane was shortly behind in 24th with 1.141Mbps. The data was collected by uSwitch.com.

INSIDE

National award for hospital team



PAGE 5

BOOZED UP OFF LICENCE

Open on Christmas Day 9am-4pm

Discounted Wines, Beers,
Spirits & Cigarettes

Only
£20.99

P/M £25.99
70cl



Only
£18.99
EACH

P/M £21.99
70cl



Only
£14.99

P/M £23.99
70cl



Only
£15.99

P/M £20.25
70cl



Only
£27.99
EACH

P/M £31.49
Varieties
as stocked
70cl



All major credit cards accepted
- Opening Hours:
Mon - Sun 12pm - 10pm

32 Salop Road,
Oswestry
SY11 2NU
Telephone:
01691 653083



CONTACT US

Associate Editor: Iain St John:
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk
Reporter: Sue Austin: 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk
Reporter: Jonny Drury 01691 668098
jonny.drury@shropshirestar.co.uk
Sport: Dave Cooper: 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk
Photographic: 01691 668094
Regional advertising sales manager:
Alison Jukes: 01743 283330
alison.jukes@shropshirestar.co.uk
Advertising supervisor:
Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk
Sales representatives:
Connor Harris: 01691 668090
connor.harris@shropshirestar.co.uk
Victoria Dodd: 01691 668091
victoria.dodd@shropshirestar.co.uk
Distribution: 01902 319537
p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

THE CHRONICLE'S CODE OF PRACTICE

The Chronicle's policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. Please contact us if you are unhappy with the accuracy of any story. The Chronicle adheres to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk

We are regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ipso). Complaints about stories should be referred firstly to us at iain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk or by post to Iain St John, Associate Editor, Oswestry & Border Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU. If we cannot reach a resolution, contact Ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipso, c/o Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD



Proposed college deal will 'provide a bright future'

Report by Jonny Drury

MONTHS after an abandoned merger, Oswestry's North Shropshire College has announced it has found a new partner.

The college has agreed to seek a merger with Herefordshire and Ludlow College.

Bosses say the proposed merger will enable students in both communities to "benefit from good quality education, availability of a broader range of courses and facilities, and it will secure a sustainable and prosperous future".

Gillian Richards, chair of governors at North Shropshire College, said: "Governors are unanimous in the decision to join Herefordshire and Ludlow College.

"The merged organisation will offer more for all our students, communities, businesses and other key stakeholders.

"I look forward to the exciting developments ahead."

The board of governors was left disappointed in August when, following 18 month-long talks, the college failed to secure the funding to allow a merger with Reaseheath College in Nantwich to go ahead.

Immediately after the collapse of the merger was announced, college bosses insisted they were exploring new avenues and had received a number of requests from other education establishments.

Igor Andronov, chair of governors at Herefordshire and Ludlow College added: "This is very good news.

"I am looking forward to working in close partnership with North Shropshire College to secure a bright future for the students, who I believe will stand to benefit from this merger.

"My personal involvement in previous successful mergers with Herefordshire and Ludlow College convinces me that we have much to offer to the future of North Shropshire College."

Both colleges will now work together, with the support of the Government's Treasury Transaction Unit, towards achieving the merger, which they hope to complete in 2018.

Village's railway station remains popular



Gobowen Railway Station is the closest mainline station to Oswestry and is still being well used by passengers

MORE than 220,000 passengers used Gobowen Railway Station in the last financial year, new figures have revealed.

The station is the closest mainline station to Oswestry and is well used by people from the town as well as outlying villages.

The figures also revealed that more than two million passengers travelled through Shrewsbury Railway Station in the last financial year.

It was the busiest station in Shropshire with 2,087,820 entries and exits, and was

busier by 110,000 than the previous financial year. The station was ranked 280th busiest in the country.

After Shrewsbury, Telford Central was the second busiest with 1,207,406 entries and exits, 70,000 more than the previous financial year.

Telford Central was placed as the 463th busiest in the country.

The third busiest county station was Wellington, with 665,778 entries and exits, followed by Ludlow with 299,802 and

Gobowen with 221,138. Birmingham New Street was ranked the sixth busiest station in the country, and the busiest outside London, with 42.3 million entries and exits.

London's Waterloo topped the list of Britain's busiest stations with 99.4 million – the 14th consecutive year it has been the most used station. In total, it was estimated there were more than 2.9 billion entries and exits at all 2,560 rail stations in Great Britain, an increase of 0.4 per cent on the previous year.

Cambrian Fireplaces and Appliances



Come and see our wide range of gas and electric fires with over 30 suites and surrounds on display

BOSCH
ZANUSSI
BEKO
MULTIFUEL & WOOD BURNING STOVES

NO CHIMNEY? NO PROBLEM!
Free local survey for gas fire installations
Gas fire and boiler servicing & landlord certificates



Gas & Electric Cookers
from **£199**

Washing Machines
from **£219**



burley
BROSELEY

Tel: 01691 655936 www.cambrianfires.co.uk

Central Hall Coney Green Oswestry Shropshire SY11 2JL Open Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9am-5pm. Closed Thursday. Saturday 9am-3pm.

All major credit cards accepted



Holiday facilities plans for old quarry

AN application has been submitted for six holiday units and a reception log cabin to be built on an old quarry in a village near Oswestry.

Permission for the change of use of land at Selattyn Quarry has been submitted to Shropshire Council.

It involves six units and the log cabin with associated parking and conversion of an agricultural building to holiday accommodation.

Application documents state the agricultural building will be used as a "hang-out barn", for use by people staying in safari tents, providing indoor socialising space and additional cooking facilities.

The site comprises of scrub woodland and upper quarry, and the three agricultural buildings which were previously sited in the upper quarry.

Two longer buildings have been removed, leaving an extensive area of hard standing that is proposed to be used as a car park.

The applicants say the proposals provide a positive use of the previously-developed quarry site that will benefit the rural economy, and also provide two full-time jobs.

A statement said: "There is demand for accommodation for people walking the Offa's Dyke long distance path.

"This proposal extends the range of accommodation open to visitors, providing for the growing demand of glamping and supporting the council's wider economic strategy to diversify the rural economy."

The application has been supported by Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council, and the applicants say the change of use is appropriate to the character of the area, with it being scree in the landscape by the quarry and the scrubland. Another point in the statement said: "Visitors will benefit the economic and social viability of the area, increasing expenditure in local pubs, restaurants, shops, etc. Users of the site will help support the local public house in Selattyn as well as visitor attractions in the surrounding countryside."

Snowstorm brings havoc to roads and schools

Report by Jonny Drury

THICK snow and freezing conditions caused disruption in Oswestry and Welshpool this week with schools closing and police advising motorists to only travel if absolutely necessary.

Many schools around the area closed early on Friday last week as the snow-storm hit.

Over the weekend many roads became treacherous and council crews were out in force doing their best to keep main routes open.

The disruption continued on Monday with many schools in the area remaining closed because of the freezing conditions and the thick blanket of snow which hit the region. Some schools in the Oswestry area also remained closed on Tuesday.

Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital appealed for 4x4 drivers to help get staff to and from work during the worst of the bad weather.

It said nurses and clinical staff were struggling to get to the hospital in smaller vehicles because of the snow.

A statement on Twitter added: "If staff are unable to make their way to work safely, it will mean patient care is compromised." The online plea did the trick with dozens of people offering to help out the hospital staff, including members of the fire service.

Although the cold weather saw many people stay indoors, those who ventured outside were rewarded with some fantastic winter sights. Landmarks were covered in snow and visitors to Powis Castle at Welshpool were treated to an impressively atmospheric sight. Among the visitors to the castle's grounds was Clive Potter who took a hauntingly beautiful image of the historic property.

Meanwhile, residents have been warned to keep themselves healthy as temperatures continue to plunge.

Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust advised that people should think about their options before rushing to A&E. The trust said people should consider using Oswestry's Minor Injury Unit.



The heavy snow brought chaos but also gave many, including Clive Potter, a chance to capture some great photos

Authority is tops for recycling levels

THE introduction of three-weekly rubbish collections has led to Powys becoming the top recycling carbon-saving council in the UK

The controversial move has seen Powys increase its year-on-year improvement carbon saved per person from 103kg in 2014/15 to 130kg in the last financial year.

The council has topped Eunomia's Local Authority Recycling Carbon

Index, achieving a carbon saving of 130kg per person in 2015/16.

Eunomia's index calculates the amount of carbon dioxide emissions prevented as a result of local residents' recycling efforts. Councillor Phyl Davies, cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: "To be the leading recycling carbon-saving council in all of England, Northern Ireland and Wales is a great

achievement. I would like to thank our residents for helping us get to this top spot, we couldn't have done it without them. By recycling more items, the amount of carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced. Eunomia specifically noted that the move to three-weekly residual collections in late 2015 has made a significant impact and helped us reach the top of this index."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hopes of care group deal fading

THE company that owns a care home in Gobowen could be heading for administration as hopes of a rescue deal fade.

Four Seasons, which runs Meadowbrook Care Home, is owned by Guy Hands' private equity vehicle Terra Firma and is struggling under £525 million of debt and faces a critical interest payment tomorrow (Friday).

However, Four Seasons is now likely to miss the payment, plunging into doubt the future of 17,000 elderly residents across 343 homes. It comes amid a failure by Terra Firma and Four Seasons' principal creditor, American hedge fund H/2 Capital Partners, to thrash out a deal.

Four jobs at new Specsavers store

A £350,000 investment to bring an opticians to Welshpool will create four jobs.

Specsavers will open on Welshpool's Mill Lane Retail Park in the new year.

The 1,500 square foot store will open in the first week of January. It will also have three test rooms, including a soundproof room for audiology customers.

Optometrist David Dunlop said: "We have a loyal customer base who have travelled to the Newtown store for our services, so it will be great to be able to serve them, and our new customers, on their home turf."

Business plan is outlined to council

COUNCILLORS have been updated on plans to transform Oswestry into a Business Improvement District.

Leaders of the initiative attended a town council meeting last week.

Ian Follington from the group said: "We updated the council, and told them our aims and it is positive, as positive as it could be."

"As the survey showed over half of the businesses would be willing to sign up, and the others want to see the business plan."

A referendum on the plan will take place in the new year.

WE'VE GOT CHRISTMAS WRAPPED UP!

MIX & MATCH THREE BOTTLES OF WINE JUST £12.00

KINGSTONE PRESS CIDER TRAY OF 12 JUST £14.99

REAL DEALS FOR YOU APPROVED STOCKIST

LOTS OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS IN STORE

REAL CHRISTMAS TREES IN STOCK FROM £19.99

GO WILD

www.morgansltd.com

oswestry@morgansltd.com 01691 671489

Mile End Business Park, Oswestry, SY10 8NN

WINDOWS OF OZ LTD

SUPPLY AND INSTALL ADVANCED PVC-U WINDOWS AND DOORS IN A VARIETY OF STYLES AND FINISHES

OFFERING YOU: QUALITY VALUE

FASCIA, GUTTERING, WINDOWS & DOORS

12A MAESBURY ROAD, OSWESTRY TEL: 01691 654033

15 YEARS TRIED & TRUSTED EXPERIENCE

RECOMMENDATIONS IN YOUR AREA. FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE.

www.windowsofco.co.uk



All meat of local origin
M. BATTAMS
 GENERAL BUTCHER
 Traditional and the BEST

Long established local business with helpful, skilled and experienced staff
ALL MEAT; BEEF, PIGS, LAMB & CHICKEN SOURCED LOCALLY AND FULLY TRACEABLE
ALL CUT TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS
Traditional and the BEST!





We wish all our customers old and new, a very merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

54 Beatrice St. Oswestry SY11 1QW  Find us on facebook.
www.bathamsbutchers.co.uk
Call us on 01691 654844



Three of the cats that died

Cats dead after anti-freeze incidents

A WOMAN is appealing for information after four of her cats died from anti-freeze poisoning. Rebecca Willsmer, who lives in Aston Close in Oswestry, discovered her cat Pluto on Sunday afternoon in considerable pain, and after a trip to the vets, the family was told he

had been poisoned with anti-freeze and was to be put down. Three other cats, Mouse, Dixie and Mimi were also discovered to be ill over the course of the next day, all having anti-freeze in their systems. Miss Willsmer said the family and

her children have been left devastated by the incidents. Miss Willsmer has reported the incidents to the police and has asked for anyone with information to come forward. She has been left overwhelmed by the response of the community.

People have been sharing her posts on social media, appealing for information and have gone as far as ringing the vets and paying her vets bills for her. She added: "People have been coming to our house with money for vets bills and coming with flowers and chocolates."

Beauty salon owner fined over trade waste offence

Report by Jonny Drury

A BEAUTY salon owner has been fined for failing to explain how she dealt with trade waste.

Julia Cork, aged 30, of Sunkissed Tanning Salon, in Little Henfaes Drive, Welshpool, admitted failing to produce waste transfer notes to the waste authority, when she appeared at Llandrindod Wells Magistrates Court on Wednesday last week.

She was fined £150 and ordered to pay £375 costs and a £30 surcharge. Rob Brown, prosecuting for Powys County Council, said a senior environmental waste officer was in Welshpool on February 21, checking on fly-tipping, when he noticed a black bin bag of waste outside the salon.

Chance to have say on bikers

RESIDENTS of Powys who are concerned about motorcycle accidents are being given the chance to express their views to the cabinet member for highways.

Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick wants to hear the views of residents and communities across the county about motorcycle accidents and the impact it has on local communities.

"I have been cabinet member for highways for six months and in the thousands of miles I have already covered, the issue of motorcycling constantly rears its head when I'm talking to county councillors, community councillors and members of the community," said Councillor Fitzpatrick.

"Anyone wishing to express their views can email me at cllr.liam.fitzpatrick@powys.gov.uk and have until December 22 to do so."

He took photographs and removed the waste. When he checked the contents of the bag he found correspondence addressed to the salon.

The authority issued Cork with a notice asking her to identify how her trade waste was being dealt with, as it is a paid for service. On March 6 the notice was issued but she did not respond. On March 29 she was issued with a £300 fixed penalty notice but it was not paid. Officers spoke to Cork and warned her that she could be prosecuted but on August 11, officers were again in Welshpool and noticed another black bag outside the premises.

Cork, representing herself, said: "When I opened the shop I never knew what I was supposed to be doing with the waste. I left the bag there and was going to take it with me." The court was told Cork now has proper arrangements in place.

School celebration is held



Year 10 students Hattie Leslie-Miller, Yasmin Aktar and Ellie Burnett with Jo Phillips

STAFF and pupils at the Oswestry-based Marches Academy Trust have attended a celebration to recognise the continued support provided by local businesses and sponsors.

The celebration was held at Sir John Talbot's School in Whitchurch, part of the trust.

A total of 50 local sponsors and supporters of the trust, Sir John Talbot's School and The Marches School attended the evening. The mayors of both Whitchurch and Oswestry were among the guests, as were the rotarians, Oswestry Lions and Shropshire Sailing Club all of whom have made significant contributions to the various initiatives and community projects carried out by the students across the trust.

Sarah Longville, chief executive of The Marches Academy Trust warmly welcomed guests before they enjoyed an evening of entertainment, provided from musically talented students across both The Marches School and Sir John Talbot's School, and a two course meal prepared by Shire Catering.

EXCLUSIVE

50% OFF

VIDEO OFFERS

VIDEO ADVERT

was ~~£699*~~ now **£349**

CORPORATE VIDEO

was ~~£799*~~ now **£399**

Call 01902 319730 quote 'offer50' to receive saving

www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising

MNA DIGITAL

Planners give green light to new 112-seater cinema

Report by Sue Austin

A PLAN to create a 112-seater cinema in Oswestry has been given the go-ahead.

The conversion of a former church in Oswestry into the venue would, planners say, breathe new life back into the building.

It could mean new jobs for the town and bring new releases to Oswestry.

There is no date yet for work on the cinema to start. A consultant involved in the

Man admits to theft of post boxes

A MAN has admitted stealing or attempting to steal 37 post boxes – including several around Shropshire – worth more than £25,000.

Mark Crowther, 37, of Linden Avenue, Chirk, stole 33 boxes and attempted to steal another four belonging to the Royal Mail. The crimes happened over a three-year period between 2012 and 2014.

Crowther appeared in the dock at Mold Crown Court for a plea and trial preparation hearing on Friday last week.

He had indicated not guilty pleas at Wrexham Magistrates' Court last month but entered guilty pleas to all matters.

Judge Niclas Parry re-bailed him to return for sentence on Friday next week and ordered a pre-sentence report from the probation service.

"I would be lying if I told you to do anything other than to prepare yourself for a custodial sentence," he said.

All sentencing options would remain open.

In Shropshire Crowther stole post boxes from Houghton in Shrewsbury, Sodylt in Ellesmere, Chequer Box in Long Waste, Whitechurch and Llwyn Road, Park Hall, Bronygarth and the Old Racecourse in Oswestry.

TRUST
GUARANTEED BY THE RETAIL MOTOR INDUSTRY
CHIRK
SERVICE STATION

DISCOUNT HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRE SPECIALISTS

175/65 14 PREMIUM BUDGET £30.00
185/60 15 PREMIUM BUDGET £33.00
165/60 14 PREMIUM BUDGET £34.50
205/55 16 PREMIUM BUDGET £39.00
225/45 17 PREMIUM BUDGET £42.95

205/55 16 UNIROYAL (Continental) £52.50

All Prices Are INCLUSIVE of VAT & FULLY FITTED!

All other sizes and makes available from stock

Continental
Michelin
Goodyear
Uniroyal
MOT's from £35

Holyhead Road, Chirk LL14 5NA
TEL: 01691 773428 OR 07879 494480

MOT CARS SERVICING

Day's Rental.co.uk
The Newest Models at the Lowest Prices!



Everything we do is driven by you.

With over 12,000 vehicles in stock we will have the right vehicle for you. Vans, Tipperos, Lutons, Minibuses, 4x4's, Motorhomes and a large variety of cars

Our Price Promise

We will match a price you find elsewhere* At Day's Rental, we are so confident that we are delivering value for money, we Promise to match any offer subject to written proof of offer*

Unit 1, Sundorne Trade Park, Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NS

daysrental.co.uk/quote
0800 3897626

* Terms and conditions apply. The competitive quote from another reputable rental dealership must be provided and verified. Competitor's product must be identical to ours, and offered on the same terms. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

B. Hawkins & Sons
FAMILY BUTCHERS
Est 1873

4 Cross Street Ellesmere, SY12 0AR
VISA 01691 622329

- Homemade Sausages & Burgers
- Dry Cured Bacon
- Jamie Ward's Free Range Pork
- Local Lamb
- 28 Day Hung Beef
- Local Free Range Chicken & Eggs

Top award for hospital team



Sarah Turner, research project manager, and Patrick Laing with the award

MEMBERS of the research department at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital are celebrating after winning an industry recognised award, which has led to a change of practice at the hospital.

The team won the West Midlands Clinical Research Network Clinical Research Impact Award for their work on the Fused Ankle Shoe Trial, as well as being highly commended in the overall performance category, at a recent annual awards ceremony in Birmingham.

The FAST study looked at 14 patients, who had undergone ankle fusion surgery, and would typically have been referred to the hospital's orthotic department for a

custom made pair of orthotic shoes with a curved sole, which would cost about £200.

However instead of just looking at orthotic shoes as an option, as part of the trial, patients were examined in the Gait Laboratory at the hospital, wearing orthotic shoes with a curved sole, as well as branded shoes Skechers and MBT shoes, both of which also had the curved soles.

The study found, based on the speed and how patients walked, that these branded shoes were in fact better for the patients than the specially-made orthotic shoes.

The trial was the brainchild of Patrick Laing, an orthopaedic surgeon who is an honorary consultant at the hospital.

USE YOUR LOFT!

Bison
Loft Ladders



£395
Special offer for limited time
£299
(incl VAT)
Quote Ref ZZ

Safety hand rail Unique to Bison

Over 10,000 Installations

NEW: Long Safety Side Handles*

*at extra cost

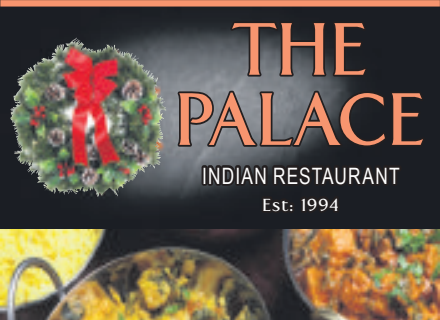
Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. A "gas" strut mechanism requiring just fingertip control makes opening and closing your loft stairs exceptionally easy.

- Fully manufactured by us in the Midlands
- Free Survey
- 'Bison' loft ladders, only available from us
- Full 4 year parts & labour guarantee
- The only product available with a safety handle in the loft
- Fitted in approx 2 hours (including making the opening larger)
- NEW: Now available in white no painting required*
- NEW: Now complete with "comfort" feet to protect carpets and wooden floors.

We also fit loft flooring, lighting and roof windows. All major credit cards accepted

theloftstairscompany

The Loft Stairs Company, Unit 60, Atcham Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG
Visit our website www.theloftstairscompany.co.uk
Freephone 0800 389 1281
or mobile friendly 01743 761499



Here at the Palace Llansantffraid, we would like to thank everyone for their custom throughout the years and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Spice up your life with one of our gift vouchers



www.thepalacellansantffraid.co.uk

VIP LOUNGE
Griffiths & Beauty
CHRISTMAS OFFERS!

ACRYLICS WITH GEL £30

£10 OFF TEETH WHITENING
£5.00 OFF ANY SERVICE OVER £60

FREE WAX WITH EVERY EYEBROW & EYELASH TINT

SUNBED COURSES OFFERS

30 minutes 25% OFF was £20 NOW £15

60 minutes 25% OFF was £35 NOW £26.25

90 minutes 25% OFF was £50 NOW £37.50

For further special offers, bring this advert along to the salon

5 Berriew Street, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7SQ
f 01938 555 575
www.vip-lounge.co.uk

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

A last minute bid to slap Grade II Listed Building status on a doomed Welshpool primary school could jeopardise a multi-million pound redevelopment plan for the town's junior schools.

Under current ambitious plans to transform primary education in the area, the Maesyde site is scheduled to form part of grounds of the new Ysgol Cymraeg y Trallwng but an application to CADW, by a so-far unknown individual, has put a massive question mark over the scheme. And it could hit all Powys ratepayers in the pocket.

CADW, the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service, have informed Powys County Council of their intention to list the existing building which is planned to be flattened. Which is quite a shock as the school is being developed with Welsh Government cash.

Quite frankly I'm gobsmacked that anyone should come forward with such a suggestion, particularly at such a late stage in the planning.

Why should the building be listed?

It might well have some historical link to an obscure architect or even have some fond memories for someone of what happened in the bike sheds but that hardly warrants the preservation of a building which hasn't been fit for educational purposes for a decade. Even this week governors and staff were battling with a leaking roof in a bid to keep pupils in school.

The scheme, which offers Welshpool two new state-of-the-art primary schools, will provide fantastic education opportunities for the youngsters of the town and surrounding area and now Powys Council will be forced to fight any CADW recommendations to protect those opportunities.

Of course, it would be possible to build the new school and retain the ugly and crumbling old building on the site, reducing the size of the new facilities. But where will the funding come from to maintain the former school – and what for?

One Plaid Cymru county councillor has described the move as a "cynical attempt to disrupt a major investment, and a total waste of money" – perhaps he knows a bit more than he saying so far.

And if he's proved to be right someone is going to have a lot on their conscience if the new school programme is delayed and the funding vanishes. And the ratepayer will be picking up the bill.



Mrs Beeton tapped into the mood of Victorian England



Mrs Beeton's plum pudding was made from beef



A boar's head was seen as the height of sophistication

Victorian Christmas fare that takes some Beeton

Festive food doesn't have to focus on turkey, says food historian Annie Gray. Report by MARK ANDREWS

LOOKING forward to your turkey dinner this Christmas, followed by a Marks & Spencer Christmas pudding, topped off with generous helpings of brandy butter?

Then don't, whatever you do, invite Annie Gray along to join you.

"Turkey is vile," says the waspish food historian and broadcaster, who will be on our screens later with a new BBC2 show filmed at Ironbridge in Shropshire.

"If we as a race really liked turkey so much, we wouldn't just have it on Christmas Day, we would have it all year round.

"Roast chicken's fine, a really good turkey's fine, but most of the turkey people eat at Christmas is really bad, it comes from the supermarket frozen, and is cooked to death with burned legs.

"If you are going to cook turkey for dinner, take the legs off and cook them separately so they're not overcooked."

Annie is speaking to a sell-out crowd of 300 at Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Engine House at Coalbrookdale. The Gorge's Blists Hill Victorian Village is also the setting of her new television programme *The Sweet Makers at Christmas*, which will go out tomorrow (Friday).

She is talking about Christmas cooking through the ages, with particular reference to the Victorian period typified by the famous Mrs Beeton's cookery books, and says we could learn a thing or two from our forebears when it comes to having a good time over the festive period.



Food historian Annie Gray at Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Engine House

In ages gone by, Christmas pudding would be made with beef, and would be served as one of several main courses, not as a dessert.

"Why save your Christmas pudding until you have already eaten too much, and you don't want it?" she says.

"And don't, whatever you do, have brandy butter with it, brandy butter is horrible, it is an abomination."

The Christmas feast has had something of a chequered history over the centuries, says Annie. In the Middle Ages it was largely eschewed in polite society – at least in public.

"It was seen as a time of gluttony, harlotry and lechery, something that was largely confined to the lower orders," she says, although that is not to say that the upper echelons did not participate in a bit of gluttony and lechery behind closed doors.

"In the medieval period, Christmas did not really get going until Decem-

ber 24, and it would then go on for the full 12 days of Christmas. There is evidence that minced pies were consumed as early as Tudor times, although they were somewhat different from Mr Kipling's vision of what they should be."

"They were about 12in across and contained one-third meat," she says.

Oliver Cromwell's Puritanical rule meant that the riotous Christmas celebrations of old largely went by the board, although contrary to popular myth he never stopped people from celebrating.

"There's no truth to the rumour that he banned Christmas," says Annie. "Although those people who celebrated Christmas with lots of food were at risk of having lots of soldiers banging on their door."

Annie says the first record of turkey being eaten for Christmas dinner was in 1526, although it did really become

established as the definitive festive meal until the 1960s. "It came over from America, from the Thanksgiving celebrations. Before that it was one of many things that people might eat at Christmas."

Annie says the modern festivities owe much to the Victorian era, typified by the famous Mrs Beeton's cookery book, or *Book of Household Management* to give it its full name.

"The influence that Isabella Beeton had on how we celebrate Christmas is practically zero, but the Victorians had a big influence," she says.

"Isabella only lived to be 28, and she stole all her information from other sources. Most of her recipes came from Eliza Acton, she was basically a woman with a library, she had no shame."

"She is often credited as being the first to list the ingredients in her recipes, but she wasn't, that was Eliza Acton."

What she did have, though, was a knack of being able to connect with the aspirational housewives of the day. Her books made no claim that the recipes were original, but it didn't matter. Her achievement was to bring together everything that the would-be perfect hostess could possibly need, and it went down a storm with the lower-middle classes who sought to elevate their place in society.

"It sold extremely well, she sold 60,000 copies in the first year," says Annie.

It seems hard to see any animal's head taking the place of the traditional turkey for the average household in Shropshire, but Annie urges people to take a leaf out of Mrs Beeton's book, and try something a bit more adventurous this Christmas.

"People have ate almost everything at Christmas at some time through history. We don't need to stick to turkey, sprouts and Christmas pudding."

WORKING FOR YOU



The agreement that Theresa May and the EU Commission made during phase 1 of the Brexit negotiations allows the talks to move forward. But nothing is agreed until everything is agreed and there are obvious causes for concern.

We cannot allow for the continued oversight of the European Court of Justice in the UK post-Brexit. The idea that EU citizens in the UK should be "protected" by the ECJ would be a bizarre situation, creating a privileged class of three million people whose rights in this country would be enforced by a court beyond the influence of our Government and Parliament.

The question of the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland dominated the headlines last week, so it was particularly good to see confirmed what many of us have been arguing for some time: there is no need for a "hard" border and avoiding one is entirely possible with new technology and goodwill.

Paragraph 45 of the agreement clearly states that the UK is leaving both the Single Market and the Customs Union. In 1999, 61 per cent of UK goods exports were with the EU, now they are 43 per cent. By 2025, it has been projected that they will account for under 35 per cent. Those who would now cling gloomily to the status quo would deny us the key benefits of expanding free trade – lowering the price of food, clothing and footwear for all consumers – preferring instead to stifle new competition and enterprise. Paragraph 49 states that the UK will maintain "full alignment" with their rules to support North-South co-operation on the island of Ireland in the absence of agreed solutions. We cannot allow "alignment" to be interpreted as shackling our whole domestic economy with the rules of the Single Market (exports to which account for only 12 per cent of our GDP) and having us effectively inside the Customs Union. Such an outcome would leave us without control either of our borders or our trade. Our net contribution to the EU budget has been over £180 billion – the second biggest in the bloc. Ending those contributions is clearly a major cause of European concern. If the EU wants our money, it must talk seriously about a comprehensive reciprocal free-trade deal with zero tariffs.

If not, we must be prepared to walk away, paying not a penny more than we legally owe and advancing our global trade talks.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

Brilliant
breaks
across the UK



Holidays
from
£10
per person*

ARE BACK

www.shropshirestar.co.uk/holidaysfrom10pounds

*Minimum booking of a family of four. Online booking fee of £3.00 applies. Token / password collection. Service and optional entertainment charges may apply. Terms and conditions apply, see www.shropshirestar.co.uk/holidaysfrom10 for details.

Shropshire
STAR

Youngsters should be bold and daring

I STRUGGLE to understand the deadened spirit of some members of the younger generation.

In my experience they are inherently dull, incapable of definitive individuality, barely alive they slope around my town in a catatonic state. Indecisive they will put their electronic signature to any cause without concern if it be fake or not.

They are insular and so desperately weak, debilitated and controlled by inani-

mate devices, they have no sense of reality. Where is the strong mind, the forceful determination, the sheer energy of raw uninhibited pursuit of life in all its joys and challenges?

No action or decision is taken without consulting their device, never questioning the answer they are indoctrinated into accepting the device is infallible. Is this the place where leaders of nations are born and nurtured?

My generation is the last to have known a time when it really did take a village to rear a child, when shared poverty meant caring about strangers and friends.

I am grateful for advances in social care and acknowledge unimagined progress in innumerable ways, but I do long for a hint of boldness, of gutsy daring in the next generation.

**VIC TONKS
Dawley**

Engraving shows historic castle in all its glory



This is something a bit different because, as you can see, this is not a photograph, but an engraving which bears the date of June 12, 1844. Despite its age you should be able to recognise it in an instant as Powis Castle. The engraving was loaned to us a while ago by Gordon Willocks of Shrewsbury.

Parking fees at hospitals affect most vulnerable

I WRITE more in hope than expectation that the powers that be in the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal Hospitals will abandon their plans to further tax those having the audacity to visit the above establishments by car when sick, bereaved or concerned about their loved ones.

Having to pay any parking fee is bad enough in itself during stressful times but to further penalise ill people by increasing the parking tax by some 100 per cent is completely unjustified.

These misguided people in charge of two hospitals are a disgrace. Claiming that the revenue generated pays for 40 nurses following recent statements to the effect that shortage of staff is likely to lead to the closure of some services is either utterly wrong or blatant lies.

Make no mistake, these increases are purely and simply a cash cow revenue stream imposed on those most vulnerable members of our society in times of most need.

**MIKE WALKER
Highley**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iajn.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Time to give years their correct title

I THINK it is about time it was decided which is the correct title for the present year, and those past and future.

There is no doubt in my mind that the correct title for this year, 2017, is twenty-seventeen, not two thousand and seventeen.

Most media correspondents do get it right but there are some who still call it two thousand and seventeen.

If anyone argues, ask them when the Battle of Hastings took place.

**R GRAVES
Minsterley**

Our politicians should do more on animal welfare

I GREW up on a farm and would like to think that most farmers try to give their animals the best possible life before they have to be sent for slaughter.

Once the animals have been delivered to the slaughter house, it is up to them to kill the animals as humanely as possible without causing them undue stress and pain.

That is the main reason I signed a petition against ritual slaughter and killing without stunning.

The response I got from HM Government was not one I would expect from compassionate conservatism.

They quoted that exceptions for religious slaughter had been in place since 1933, and since then, the EU has come up with numerous statutes to protect this barbaric practice.

I feel totally ashamed of the EU and our governments past and present, for not moving into the 21st century, where animal welfare is concerned.

**MARK NORWOOD
Whittington**

It would be so much better if we looked out for one another

THE discourteous behaviour that exists between cyclists and motorists seems also to exist between cyclists and pedestrians.

Many pedestrians and cyclists are forced to share dual-purpose pathways.

As pedestrians who walk a dog, we try very hard to consider cyclists who may be approaching from behind, to ensure that our dog walks to heel, and does not stray randomly from one lane to the other, thus posing a risk to the dog and the cyclist.

We would encourage any dog owner to do likewise, and to check behind them before changing lanes.

Similarly, as a pedestrian with either a dog or small children walking at our side, we would like to have similar consideration given to us as a cyclist approaches us from behind at 20mph plus.

Can you please warn us that you are coming, and ring your bell, or call out, and please slow down as you pass?

Many is the time that we have been passed by a speeding bike, no more than a foot away from us.

It is dangerous, as the dog may move suddenly to one side, and it is also discourteous.

We have talked to the police about this, and they assure us that this matter is something which they are aware of and which also affects their own foot patrols.

We all have to use the same roads and footpaths.

Would it spoil some vast eternal plan if we all considered one another?

**MARY AND ROGER BIRTWHISTLE
Wrockwardine Wood**

Elgar would hit right note

AS a piece of music the United Kingdom's National Anthem, courtesy of 1745, would not make it into my top 10 of music to be inspired by or to represent the UK.

So from a poor musical knowledge can I suggest some Elgar.

An obvious choice would be Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No. 1, but without the words that were added later. I understand Elgar was not that keen on the lyrics of what we now know as Land of Hope and Glory.

They may be a little too demonstrative for a lot of people's taste and there is the temptation that when played everyone would sing along.

So how about an orchestral piece which would allow the individual to interpret the music as they feel fit? Elgar's Enigma Variations, part 9, Nimrod. Although the piece was written to represent an individual I am sure Elgar would not mind it being used to represent the nation.

**PETER STEGGLES
Longnor**

David Davies & Sons
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED 1840

A caring, compassionate and discreet service from a family business since 1840

1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry • SY11 2AA

Oswestry **01691 653116** (24 hrs)
www.daviddaviesandsons.co.uk

DIRECT BLINDS Established Since 1988
Quality Made to Measure

BUY 4 Vertical Blinds/roller blinds Fitted from **£199**

ROLLER BLINDS WOODEN BLINDS
CONSERVATORY VERTICAL BLINDS
BLINDS ROMAN BLINDS
VENETIAN BLINDS PLEATED BLINDS

Perfect Fit Blinds **VELUX**

FREE MEASURING AND FITTING SERVICE Value for Money FAST Local Service

PROFESSIONAL CARPET CLEANING
MADE TO MEASURE AND READY MADE CURTAINS
MONTGOMERY FABRICS

www.directblindsshropshire.co.uk
01691 670257

www.easyfitblinds.co.uk
For Domestic & Commercial Premises
6 Oswald Road, Oswestry SY11 1RE

Charnwood C-Four Wood Burning Stove From **£698** inc VAT

30 YEARS Saxon

• Stoves • Fireplaces • Range Cookers • Gas & Electric Fires

Real fire heating from **saxon** **01691 772153**
FREE DELIVERY

www.saxonhomecare.co.uk
Gledrid, Near Oswestry LL14 5DG

* 6000 sq ft showroom * 30 mins from Shrewsbury & Chester * Open 7 days a week

Cruise the Danube to Vienna & Budapest
Experience a wonderful scenic journey travelling along the Danube and dip in and out of the fascinating history and culture of some of the most beautiful cities in the heart of Europe. From the pretty city of Passau on the Austrian border to the Hungarian capital of Budapest, cruise in comfort and style aboard the MS Serenity. Gaze at the flawless beauty of the Wachau Valley, lose yourself in the waltzes and whirls of Vienna, explore beautiful Budapest the 'Pearl of the Danube'.

MS Serenity River Cruise Boat
From her distinct claret and cream colours on the outside, to the polished interiors and exquisite meals - there's an air about this ship that exudes style and yet the atmosphere is warm and friendly. There's also plenty of space to gather with friends and chat over drinks or enjoy some quiet time in your own company. Accommodation is split over three decks, which are all accessible by a lift.

The hotel Services include;
✓ All bedrooms have TVs ✓ Hotel bar ✓ Hotel Lift ✓ Hotel Entertainment

Your Tour Cost Includes
✓ All Travel by Executive Owen's Select Coach ✓ Return Channel Crossings ✓ 2 Overnight Hotels with Bed, Breakfast & 3 Course Evening Meals Outward Journey ✓ 1 Overnight Hotel with Bed, Breakfast & 3 Course Evening Meals Return Journey ✓ MS Serenity: Full Board Accommodation during the Cruise with Full Hot & Cold Buffet Breakfast, Lunch and 4-Course Evening Meals Followed by Tea/Coffee ✓ Cruise Amenities, Itinerary & Sightseeing Excursions as Stated ✓ Transport Provided for Excursions where Necessary ✓ Musical Entertainment on Every Night of the Cruise ✓ Guided Tour of Melk Abbey ✓ Vienna with Guided City Tour ✓ Guided Tour of Schönbrunn Palace ✓ Budapest with Coach City Tour Accompanied by a Local Guide ✓ Budapest by Night including Folklore Show with Music and a Glass of Schnapps ✓ Pusztta Horse Show ✓ Guided Tour of Bratislava ✓ Free Time in Durnstein ✓ Drive Along the Rhine Valley

Supplements
Single room supplement £375 Middle Deck Cabin £115
Panorama Deck Cabin £230

11 DAYS 18th - 28th August £1425
www.owenstravel.co.uk

Owen's COACHES
OSWESTRY NEWTOWN 01691 652126
WHITCHURCH 01686 626576
SHREWSBURY 01743 770001
WREXHAM 01978 330003

P & G VEHICLE REPAIRS
Cargotec Industrial Park, Elson, Ellesmere SY12 9JW

TYRES EXHAUSTS BATTERIES
DIAGNOSTICS
SERVICING
REPAIRS
MOT

AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE FROM £40

01691 622849
www.pandgvehiclerepairs.co.uk

PUGHS
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Shropshire's traditional funeral directors on the banks of the River Severn

Shrewsbury's original family funeral directors are as much part of the local heritage as the River Severn. From our offices and award winning gardens on the banks of the River Severn at Coleham, Pughs have provided a highly personal and professional funeral service to families at their time of need for over 120 years.

133 Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury SY3 7DN
24 hour tel: 01743 344 646
info@pughsfuneraldirectors.com
pughsfuneraldirectors.com

MOVE IT MOVE IT MOVE IT

REMOVAL SERVICES
SINGLE ITEM TO FULL REMOVAL
Storage Available, Free Quotes, Competitive Prices, Fully Insured
Call Chris 01691 655377 / 07866 876050
E-mail: info@moveitmoveitmoveit.co.uk
Visit us online at: www.moveitmoveitmoveit.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Students take a step back in time

COLLEGE students paid a visit to a visitor attraction to experience life as a Victorian.

The North Shropshire College students spent the day at Blists Hill Victorian Village.

As part of their study programme, they aimed to gain a better understanding of living and social conditions, industrialisation and the large gap between the rich and poor during this period.

Kim Dobson, English tutor said: "It was great for the English students to be able to gain a better understanding of the Victorian period, especially in regards to studying 19th century texts throughout their course."

"They were also required to gather photographs to reflect the contrast in Victorian and modern day society."

Chamber bosses' joy at parking deal

BOSSSES at Oswestry Chamber of Commerce say they are delighted Oswestry Town Council has agreed to free afternoon parking in its car parks from 2pm onwards in the run-up to Christmas.

The deal runs until Saturday, December 23. Chamber chairman Mark Derham wrote to the council asking it to consider the free parking to increase footfall during the festive trading period. "Our thanks go to the town council for once again supporting this initiative," said Mr Derham. "Along with the Christmas lights, Christmas Live and the fantastic Christmas float parade, it all adds to making Oswestry a really pleasant place to enjoy Christmas shopping."

The car parks operated by Oswestry Town Council are Central Car Park, Horsemarket and the one near Argos/M&S.

Review will look at the future of council offices

Report by Jonny Drury

COUNCIL offices could be under threat as a local authority carries out a review of office accommodation.

Powys County Council's corporate property service has concluded its first phase of office accommodation reviews, with the result being a significant reduction in the authority's offices across the county.

The next review will examine property in the north of the county, including the future of Neuadd Maldwyn in Welshpool, which houses council offices and hosts some of the authority's meetings. Between 2008 and 2017, the local authority vacated 20 office premises, taking up nearly 9,000 square metres and 264 workstations.

The council budgets have shown a revenue cost saving of £330,000 per year, however taking into account notional rents, rates and hard facilities management costs, there was a notional saving of £1,320,000.

The majority of the buildings in that review were sold to generate funds for the council, or leased. Alongside the previous review, the council bought the Ladywell House offices in Newtown in March. The building is generating a rental income, which the authority says will increase following further lettings once the building has been refurbished. A report also states that there is an opportunity to use some of the space for council offices, reducing and consolidating the number of authority buildings in the north of the county. A review that will go before the cabinet in the New Year will analyse usage by staff and members of the public, maintenance liability, and whether they are fit for purpose.

Youngsters show off hockey talents



Millie Jones-Perrott and Kiko Munkata from Packwood Haugh School

TWO students from a school near Oswestry have been recognised for their outstanding performances at a recent hockey competition.

Millie Jones-Perrott from Packwood Haugh School in Ruyton-XI-Town was named player of the tournament at the Malvern under 11 hockey festival and Kiko Munkata, despite only playing the game for three weeks, was awarded team player of the day. Head of PE Kate Perry said: "The Malvern Hockey Festival is a long-established event and this year 10 teams from different schools took part. There was a coaching session in the morning followed later in the day by a set of round robin matches." The festival focuses on participation, learning new skills and having fun so all teams play against each other but no tally is kept of winners and losers.

She added: "However, at the end of the day, the coaches awarded prizes for individual performances. Millie was named player of the tournament out of 120 girls and was awarded a brand new hockey stick. Kiko caught the coaches' eye for her superb natural ability, great potential and boundless enthusiasm."

Gallery has plenty to see at its winter exhibition

A WINTER exhibition is running at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry until January 6.

The exhibition provides an exciting opportunity for artists to celebrate their creativity side by side, bosses say.

A gallery spokesman said: "At this open exhibition we have welcomed new artists emerging into the gallery world, in addition to new work from some of our regular artists, including Leo Donaghy, Susan Mulcock and Judith Samuel. Come and browse for your enjoyment and inspiration."

"Artist-in-residence David Bannister has done us proud with these three powerful paintings in which he builds dramatic light effects, depth and atmosphere."

"Having lived and worked in London and Tokyo, David now finds major inspiration in Mid Wales, exploring 'the boundary between land and sky, the history and spirit of the land'."

"More recently his work has tended to abstraction, more expressive use of colour and emerging spiritual elements. David also teaches drawing and painting at the Gallery - and is a teacher of tai chi and qigong."

"We also feature arts and crafts by members of local arts group Borderland Visual Arts (BVA) and the Shropshire Guild of Contemporary Craft, working in a variety of materials and producing imaginative paintings, metal art, textiles, jewellery, glass, handcrafted wood."

"Here you may find that perfect present for Christmas."

Meanwhile the gallery is also hosting a Christmas craft fair.

It will take place on Saturday from 9.30am to 5pm. The gallery is in Willow Street in Oswestry.



THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS
EVERY MONDAY

Baby unit at hospital is closed by snow damage

EXPECTANT parents in the Oswestry area may have to change their birthing plans after snow damaged the roof of a maternity unit.

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital's midwife-led unit has closed for births and inpatient care until the end of January after snow damaged its roof.

The unit will remain open to outpatient services including day attendees, hearing screening and the registrar.

Shropshire's rural maternity units in Oswestry, Ludlow and Bridgnorth, shut in July due to staff shortages although they are due to reopen from January 1.

Expectant mothers will for the moment have to use the two maternity units at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford or give birth at home.

Jo Banks, women and children's care group director at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "The extreme weather conditions have caused damage to part of the roof and as a result we have unfortunately had to temporarily suspend all of our in-patient services at the MLU, including deliveries.

"Our estates team is currently assessing the extent of the damage, and we are working with them to ensure that repairs are carried out as soon as they can be.

"We would like to apologise for any inconvenience or distress that this may cause."

Outpatient appointments and non-emergency operations were cancelled on Monday due to a combination of factors including advice from emergency services for people not to travel unless absolutely necessary.

The hospitals have also been affected by some members of staff struggling to get into work.

Housebuilder's deal set to bring 44 new homes

Report by Sue Austin

A HOUSEBUILDER has signed a £1.365m deal with the Homes and Communities Agency to build new homes.

The loan to developer Primoris Homes Limited through the Home Building Fund will support 44 new homes on land off North Drive at Park Hall near Oswestry.

The homes will be built on a brownfield site, which is a mix of former industrial and agricultural yard.

Bosses at Primoris says the plans will require some remediation work to bring the land back into use to provide the new homes, which will include four for affordable rent.

David Howell, director of Primoris Homes Limited, said: "Financing the scheme was proving difficult with our bank and we were referred to the Home Building Fund.

"From the outset, it has been very proactive and professional, which has enabled us to complete on the scheme finance in a timely manner."

Chris Raybould, senior specialist in the Homes and Communities Agency's investment team in the Midlands, said: "Supporting this development to bring this former industrial and agricultural land back into use as housing is great news for us.

"Since we launched the Home Building Fund in October 2016 we have been working with housebuilders across the country to provide loan finance and are pleased to add Primoris Homes to this list to provide these much needed new homes for local people in Oswestry."

Knife Angel sculptor's capital show



Alfie Bradley's Knife Angel sculpture at the British Ironwork Centre

THE sculptor who created the famous Knife Angel will have his work shown at an exhibition in London next year.

Alfie Bradley is well known as the man who used knives from police forces to create a memorial for victims of knife crime across the country.

The angel features messages from victims' families and is displayed at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry.

Mr Bradley is now working for himself and has created a number of other sculptures and his work will appear alongside other artists at Flux in London next year.

Born in London in 1990, the talented sculptor moved to rural France, where his parents and young brothers still live.

He spent two years at school in central France studying stone carving and a further year on the borders of Germany at an establishment specialising in sculpting, before leaving France for England in 2013 to look for work as a stone mason.

He found himself in Oswestry where he worked making bee hives for a while, before being offered the newly created position of resident sculptor at the British Ironwork Centre where he worked until July last year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murder trial is set to take place

THE court trial of a man accused of murdering a roadside diner owner in his restaurant was due to start this week.

Satnam Singh Blugher was found with stab wounds at Tony's Diner at Halfway House.

Halfway House is on the A458 road which runs between Welshpool and Shrewsbury.

Mr Blugher was found at the restaurant on June 26 this year.

The 67-year-old had run the diner for 15 years.

Belkar Singh, 58, of Booth Street, Birmingham, denies murdering Mr Blugher.

Members of the murder trial jury were sworn in on Tuesday this week.

The murder trial will take place at Stafford Crown Court.

Support given to bid for six homes

SUPPORT has been given to an application to build houses which will boost a rural community's housing supply.

The application has been made by House Martin Properties, to build six properties in Bwlch y Cibau near Llanfyllin. It will include four detached and two semi-detached houses.

Meifod Community Council has supported the application and feels more housing development is needed in the area. However, it has called for access to be considered carefully as the A490 is a busy stretch of road. Powys County Council has recommended approval, despite the application being out of the development plan. A planning report said: "Whilst a departure from the development plan, in this instance, the provision of housing is considered to outweigh the plan and therefore justifies the grant of consent as an exception to normal housing policies."

**BANBURY'S
BIGGEST
EVER
SALE**

BUY DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS

**SAVE UP TO
50% ON 'A' RATED
WINDOWS**

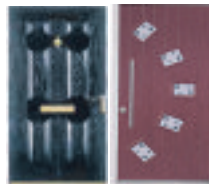
**CELEBRATING
OVER 41 YEARS
OF QUALITY
MANUFACTURING**

CLASSIC ORANGERIES from
FITTED INCLUDING BASE AND WALLS (Limited Trade Offer)

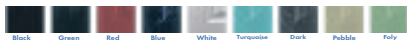
£10,995+ VAT



**EXTRA DISCOUNT
AVAILABLE FOR
SHOW HOMES
visit our showroom**



**BRITISH MADE
QUALITY
COMPOSITE DOORS
FROM
£585 inc VAT
• FREE FITTING
• 10-YEAR GUARANTEE**



FREE QUOTATION ON ALL OF OUR PRODUCT RANGE

CONSERVATION FLUSH SASH WINDOWS



- GRP RESIDENTIAL DOORS
- STABLE DOORS
- BI-FOLD DOORS
- PATIO DOOR
- FRENCH DOORS
- PORCH CANOPIES
- FASCIA AND SOFFITS
- GARAGE DOORS
- CONSERVATORIES
- SUN ROOMS
- ORANGERIES
- TILED ROOF CONSERVATORIES
- GARAGE ROOFS (GRP)
- FULL BUILDING SERVICE
- PLANS DRAWN
- PLANNING APPLICATIONS
- REPLACEMENT CONSERVATORY ROOFS
- CONSERVATORY SOLUTIONS - TOO HOT/ TOO COLD ?

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER SPECIAL OFFERS
www.banburywindows.co.uk

QUALITY PRODUCTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

SHREWSBURY
Tel: 01743 344858
Heathgates, Shrewsbury SY1 4BB
Opening hours: Mon- Sat 9am - 5pm • Sun 10am - 4pm

BANBURY

Alton Works, Long Bank, Bewdley, Worcestershire DY12 2UL
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat-Sun 10am-4pm

BEWDLEY
Tel: 01299 266527

All savings are based on previous prices at our head office branch during December 2016. Photographs are for illustration purposes only

StarReaderTravel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your weekly newspaper
in association with

Omega.



Madeira

Pearl of the Atlantic

Departing Monday 19 Feb

from Birmingham (BHX)

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return flights to Madeira incl. transfers
- ✓ 1 piece of hold luggage per person
- ✓ 7 nights all inclusive at the Hotel Raga, Funchal (breakfast, lunch, dinner, afternoon tea/coffee and cake and selected drinks during meals)
- ✓ Services of a representative

8 Days
by Air

from
£734

Prices correct at the time of publication, subject to fluctuation and availability. The final price will depend on your chosen airport, airline and flight time. Air holiday operated by Omega Holidays under ATOL No 6081. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information
or to book, please call:

03300 130 051

or visit online at: **omegabreaks.com/RT**



Cyprus Winter Sun

Departing Wednesday 21 Feb

from Birmingham (BHX)

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return flights to Paphos incl. transfers
- ✓ 1 piece of hold luggage per person
- ✓ 7 nights DBB at the Dionysos Central Hotel, Paphos
- ✓ 1 glass of wine or beer plus tea and coffee served with dinner
- ✓ Services of a representative

8 Days
by Air

from
£781

Quote **OMRT**

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

ABTA
Travel with confidence
ATOL No. 91762

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fine and ban for motorist

A MAN has been fined and banned from driving for a year after admitting a drink-drive charge before magistrates.

Stephen Charles Day, 55, of Wellington Crescent, Welshpool, appeared before Welshpool Magistrates Court on November 28 to answer the charge.

He is alleged to have driven a VW Golf on Mill Lane in Welshpool on November 8, and gave a breath test of 51 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

He was fined £500, banned from driving for 12 months, and ordered to pay a £50 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

Project aims to help the jobless

A PROJECT is underway to get over 54s in Powys back into work.

Workways Powys is a project that gives free, individual and tailored support to help people into employment or self-employment.

It is open to people across Powys who are aged 54 and older and who are not currently working or are registered unemployed.

Delivered by Prime Cymru and funded by the European Social Fund and Powys County Council, the free support can include one-to-one help with on-line and traditional job-seeking, interview skills, CV writing, sourcing trial work placements, training, or guidance on setting-up in business. There are also a host of events taking place as part of the programme with one event being held at Welshpool Library on Tuesday.

Farm union says buy Welsh this Christmas

Report by Jonny Drury

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to urge consumers to buy Welsh products this Christmas.

A survey has found 58 per cent of Welsh consumers did not know if any of the items of their Christmas dinner last year were produced in Wales, according to a new survey commissioned by the NFU.

The findings of the survey, conducted by YouGov, show that only 18 per cent of Welsh consumers had Welsh turkey for Christmas dinner in 2016, while only 29 per cent ate Welsh potatoes.

In a bid to encourage shoppers to buy more Welsh goods during the festive period, the NFU has launched a Proud to Produce Your Christmas campaign at this year's Royal Welsh Winter Fair, highlighting the role that Welsh farmers and growers play in producing the ingredients of a traditional Christmas dinner.

The campaign features a video of a delicious Welsh Christmas feast and shows some of the producers across Wales who are responsible for producing the ingredients.

NFU Cymru president Stephen James said: "This is a potentially prosperous period for the food and drink industry here in Wales but it's clear this is an opportunity that isn't being fully capitalised on. There's a role for all of us in raising the profile of Welsh produce to shoppers in the lead-up to the festive period and encouraging more people to prioritise Welsh food and drink."

Priest ordained by bishop at service



The Bishop of St Asaph with the Reverend Dr Alexis Smith

AN American who fell in love with Wales has been ordained priest at St Tyssil's Church, Llandyssil near Montgomery.

The Reverend Dr Alexis Smith was ordained priest by the Bishop of St Asaph.

A large congregation gathered to support Rev Dr Smith, who has been ministering in the area of Llandyssil and Castle Caereinion since June.

The service marked a significant milestone in a long and interesting journey that has taken her from the United States of America to ministry in rural Wales.

In the USA her ministry had included fulltime hospital and hospice chaplaincy in Greensboro, North Carolina.

But, when she began studies for a PhD at the University of Wales, Lampeter, she said a deep love for Wales and its people developed, along with the sense of God's calling to live and minister in Wales.

She moved to live in Welshpool in September 2016 and prepared for her ministry at the Church in Wales' training institute, St Padarn's.

Taxi fares and fees may go up under price plans

TAXI fares and drivers licences' could be on the rise with a consultation set to take place.

Powys County Council agreed to go out to consultation on a rise in prices across the board.

The last increases in fares came in 2011.

The county council's cabinet considered leaving fares as they were, or lifting them where there was a demand to do so.

An online survey was sent to licensed drivers.

Councillors were told 50 per cent responded as the council attempted to gauge drivers' opinions.

Results showed 57 per cent were in favour of revising tariffs.

They believed the first mile rate of a tariff of one trip should go from £3.40 to anywhere between £3.50 and £4.

The running mile rate at tariff two and four is £2.20.

Drivers have proposed a rise of up to £2.50.

Drivers have also requested for the time of tariff two to commence earlier than midnight.

They said they believed it should be between 9pm and 10pm.

A consultation will now take place on the taxi fare increase, and also on increasing drivers' licensing fees.

The local authority is proposing to increase licence fees for Hackney carriage vehicles from £129 to £133 per year, but licences for drivers for three years and one year are set to decrease under the plans.

The council agreed to send both matters out to consultation.

IS YOUR CONSERVATORY TOO HOT IN SUMMER AND TOO COLD IN THE WINTER?

A Guardian™ Roof will literally transform your conservatory into a comfortable, practical all year round living space...



The conservatory you've always dreamed of installed by quality tradespeople with over 20 years experience.

Installation of windows, doors and conservatories in uPVC, hardwood and aluminium.

MEADOWVIEW
WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES



Shrewsbury
01743 368700
Welshpool
01938 556555

BRONHAUL YARD, BROOK STREET,
WELSHPOOL, POWYS SY21 7PH
Web: www.meadowviewwindows.co.uk

Most ads are legal, decent, honest and truthful.

In 2016, the ASA removed 4,824 that weren't.

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority



UP TO

£100 OFF

WHEN YOU TRADE-IN YOUR OLD SUITE OR BED!*
HURRY, LIMITED PROMOTION AVAILABLE!
ENDS MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER!

DON'T MISS OUR FANTASTIC PRE CHRISTMAS TRADE-IN OFFER!
TRADE YOUR OLD SUITE OR BED AND RECEIVE UP TO £100 OFF!



PLUS UP TO 35% OFF WHEN YOU BUY 2 OR MORE
IN OUR MULTI-BUY OFFER!**

Shrewsbury: Ennerdale Road, Harlescott SY1 3LD. Tel: 01743 462000

Open: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat 9.30am-6pm | Thu 9.30am-8pm | Sunday 11am-5pm

alanwardfurniture.co.uk

* Terms and conditions apply. Contact our store in regards to our pre-Christmas trade-in offer.
 **Multi-buy offer excludes brands. Ends Monday 18th December 2017.



LIVING | DINING | BEDROOMS | HOMEWARES | COOKSHOP | ACCESSORIES | LIGHTING | FLOORING | RUGS

12 Leading school delighted to be shortlisted for top award

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, December 14, 2017

Commercial feature

Shrewsbury High School is celebrating after becoming the only Shropshire school to have been shortlisted in this year's TES Independent School Awards.

The school was recognised in the Strategic Education Initiative category for how well it encourages girls to pursue careers and degrees in areas of Science, Technology, Mathematics, Engineering and related STEM disciplines when nationally the trends are so poor, particularly in co-ed senior schools.

Since 2013 at Shrewsbury High, there has been a rapid increase in the number of girls pursuing courses in these STEM disciplines from 21% in 2013 to 54% in 2016, such a strong increase that it impressed those selecting for the award.

Headmaster Michael Getty puts this down to a number of different strategies and initiatives employed by the school.

He said: "Major influences have been the huge uptake of open access STEM clubs in school and the award winning bio-medical programme for would-be doctors, dentists, vets, nurses, physiotherapists, and bio-medical engineers that is now a large annual event and programme in school and across the county.

"Similarly, the operation of engineering programmes, which require students, for example, to build and engineer full size electric cars in school and then to race them, are seen as forward looking and inspiring.

"Girls now pursuing these careers in such volume is important as it challenges the stereotype that only boys and men gravitate towards these kinds of professions.



Shrewsbury High School hosts an annual biomedical conference

"Leavers are now securing scholarships at university to pursue their study, with one Shrewsbury High Old Girl Emilie Weaving recently being acclaimed as GDST's emerging talent for her work in high performance motor cycle track racing.

"Furthermore a key goal has been to start young. The school develops interests in areas such as computer coding and computer science at junior level, with the school's work in Lego robotics and computer programming with children from the age of nine also having been recognised nationally for

how it encourages participation in such fields from a very young age.

"The Prep School's involvement in Maths schemes, such as Maths in Motion, where children are encouraged to apply mathematical concepts to virtual formula one cars has proved not only popular but extremely successful with the school reaching the international finals of this competition for the last four years running, finishing in the top ten out of over 100,000 global teams".

The awards ceremony takes place in London in February 2018.

Mayor welcomes CCTV application

Report by Jonny Drury

OSWESTRY'S mayor has welcomed moves to install more CCTV cameras in the town in a bid to deal with trouble spots.

Members of Oswestry Town Council voted at a meeting to apply for a police grant to increase CCTV cameras in the town.

Two years ago the CCTV system, which is run by the council and manned by volunteers, received a national award for the work that it does.

Oswestry, Cleobury Mortimer and Wem have all indicated they want to bid for money offered by the special CCTV fund being offered by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion.

The commissioner says he is committed to supporting CCTV across the region.

The police boss has pledged to allocate up to £1 million to do so.

Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt said he was pleased with the outcome from the council, and it will now be waiting to hear the outcome of the bid.

He is hoping it will be the final piece of the jigsaw in his Castlefields ward, where drug problems and anti-social behaviour issues have been targeted in recent years by various organisations and agencies.

He said: "It is good news the bid has now gone in and we just have to wait."

The mayor added: "In my ward residents are generally really good, but you get the odd bad apple.

"That has been addressed in recent years, with the £150,000 investment from Star Housing.

"The knocking down and re-development of Swan Lane also helped, and now hopefully adding CCTV there will be the final piece."

Each application must have at least 50 per cent match funding from other sources with funding only available for capital purchases and not revenue costs.

Jim Stafford, Oswestry's CCTV co-ordinator, had suggested the town council put in a bid for £6,500.

This would be used for additional equipment including a mobile camera for the Castlefields area to use as individual problems occur, a further camera on Gobowen Road or Castle Street and a wireless upgrade to the system to support the additional cameras that have been added since the original installation.

Heart patient Annabel, 17, says thanks through walk



Annabel Walker is raising money for Birmingham Children's Hospital

A TEENAGER who has undergone open heart surgery three times is raising money for the hospital that saved her life.

Annabel Walker walked seven and a half miles from her home in Shrewsbury to Adcote School at Little Ness near Oswestry, where her father works as a bursar, to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The 17-year-old underwent her first eight-hour operation when she was just 10 months old and had to have two further operations because of complications from her congenital heart condition when she was born with a hole in her heart and a thickening of the wall of the heart.

She said: "I want to say thank to

to Ward 12 at Birmingham Children's Hospital for looking after me, as it was my last visit to Birmingham Children's Hospital on December 8, before I got moved to adult care.

"I am moving on from the hospital I love so much. I am still alive because of the doctors, nurses and surgeons there.

"It's all thanks to them for making my heart big and strong."

Annabel's most recent operation was in January this year.

"I was very ill after this operation," she added. "When I woke up from surgery, I couldn't move or walk, stand or talk. The nurses and doctors looked after me so well. I just want to say thank you."

Come and join us at the
**Senior School
Entrance Exam**

Saturday 20th January 2018



**SHREWSBURY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Wide-ranging
Scholarships Available
Direct School Bus Service

Contact us for more information:

01743 494038 | admissions@shr.gdst.net
www.shrewsburyhigh.gdst.net

Independent Day School Girls aged 3-18 | Boys aged 3-13

Students enjoy ski success



Oswestry School pupils took part in the Central England Snowsports Association schools skiing competition

PUPILS from Oswestry School took part in the Central England Snowsports Association schools skiing competition at Telford snowboard and ski centre recently.

The competition is a popular event which has attracted more than 150 entrants in previous years.

Oswestry School entered four teams and two individuals. Oswestry School

won the under 12 girls team trophy with the team comprising Emily Pritchard, Holly Gittins and Jessie Gittins.

It also won the under 16 girls team trophy and the team members were Lucy Hughes, Hannah Pritchard and Beth Ebrey.

Emily Prichard also scooped first place in the under 12 girls individual

category with Lucy Hughes finishing third in the under 16 race. The boys came home with several medals - taking second places in their categories were Oliver Anwyl and Haydn Cook while George Wigley finished third.

Sophie Suckley, head of girls sport, said: "It was an enjoyable evening and the pupils were thankful for all the support from parents and staff."



St. Martins & Llangollen
www.stans.biz
01691 772348

SAVE 10P PER LITRE ON FUEL

When you spend £50 or more in the Main Store

See in store for full details. T&C apply

Famous Grouse Whisky

1 Litre

~~£23.25~~
~~£16.99~~

£15.99



99p

Pringles
200g
~~£2.99~~
~~£1.49~~

NEW BIGGER TUBE



£2.99

Quality Street
600g



HALF PRICE

Corner Gammon Joint
~~£5.30~~ ~~£3.29~~

£2.65 PER KG

Jack Daniels
70cl
~~£27.49~~
~~£18.99~~

£16.99



£29.99

Brockmans
70cl
~~£39.99~~
~~£31.99~~



offers end Sunday 17th

FRESHLY CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Locally Sourced NON-DROP NORDMANS

Prices held for 5th year running and...

Receive a voucher for a

FREE Christmas Turkey Dinner
worth £6.99 with every tree purchased

(Voucher valid until 31st December 2017. Meal served in our coffee shop)



TREES FROM ONLY £17.99

- Free Log Base
- Free Netting Service
- Delivery Service Available
- Hundreds of Trees to Choose From

PORTHYWAEN BAND PLAYING INSTORE BETWEEN 1 & 3PM THIS SUNDAY

FREE CAR PARKING - ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!

EARLY STARTER ENGLISH BREAKFAST ONLY £3.49 (SERVED UNTIL 11.30AM)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schools in tune over performance

A SECONDARY school near Oswestry has linked up with local primaries to produce a musical.

More than 180 year five and six students from Weston Rhyn, Gobowen and Crifftins primary schools took on a pirate musical, entitled Pirates of the Curry Bean.

The show on December 4 played to a sell-out audience.

It was the culmination of weeks of costume design, singing and acting sessions delivered by St Martins School.

Carol Jones, assistant headteacher at St Martins School, said: "This project has been a lot of fun over the weeks and the students have worked hard developing their acting and performing skills, and to perform to such a large audience showed how confident these young performers have become."

Sixth form pupil in call-up honour

AN Oswestry School sixth form pupil and sports scholar has been selected to play for the under 18 England Independent Schools Football Association squad.

Ben Clarke has been selected by the association, who develop players across the country with around 900 boys and girls taking part in trials every year.

Clarke attended the St George's Park National Football Centre, a £105 million facility set in 330-acres of Staffordshire countryside that is the home to England's 28 national teams.

He played his first matches against Welsh Colleges and English Colleges at the facility.

Hillfort homes plans 'don't fit with regeneration ambition'

RECENT developments in planning and economic policy have raised fresh questions over a housing bid near Old Oswestry Hillfort, campaigners have claimed.

Members of Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort (HOOOH) are urging planners to remove housing land controversially allocated near the hillfort from Shropshire's SAMDev local plan.

Campaigners say that new economic initiatives reliant on the hillfort's appeal, as well as a boom in housing land supply and updated heritage guidance, have chipped away much of the "already shaky foundation" for endorsing the site on SAMDev two years ago.

They point to current economic regeneration in Oswestry which is seeking to capitalise on local heritage and character in moves to become both a Business Improvement District (BID) and a Heritage Action Zone.

Objectives of the Oswestry BID include building on the town's rich heritage for tourism and developing a diverse and rewarding environment. Heritage Action Zone status would facilitate investment in rejuvenating the town's historic centre and conservation area. The prospectus for Oswestry's Innovation Park specifically cites Old Oswestry as a key asset in its selling pitch to encourage businesses and investors to the area.

The campaigners argue that Shropshire's recently published Economic Growth Strategy also stresses the



Plans to build homes near Old Oswestry Hillfort have led to criticism from environmental campaigners

importance of Shropshire's historic assets in helping to promote economic growth, as well as the need to "nurture them to ensure they are sustained for current and future generations to enjoy".

Long-serving hillfort conservationist, Maggie Rowlands, said: "We cannot understand why these strategies are not feeding into the planning system, and why SAMDev cannot align with them by conserving Old Oswestry's landscape, which is integral to the appeal of one of Shropshire's most iconic heritage assets."

"You cannot continue to market Oswestry and Shropshire with iconic green aerial images of Old Oswestry, or attract people in from the by-pass

with views of the hillfort, if those fields become housing."

HOOOH member, Neil Phillips, said: "The hillfort and its hinterland landscape are iconic with outstanding heritage, environmental and tourism value that should prevent any development encroaching on them."

He said the housing planned for land near the hillfort was "simply unnecessary, especially when we have a glut of housing land and thousands of homes with planning permission which are not being built".

"If Oswestry becomes a Heritage Action Zone, this will provide scope to get redundant residential properties in the town centre back into use, reducing the need locally to build new

houses," Mr Phillips said. HOOOH has been waging a four-year fight against the allocation of 117 houses which would members say breach a longstanding town boundary safeguarding the hillfort from urban enclosure. The 3,000-year-old hillfort and its setting are deemed so important to Iron Age understanding that they have drawn comparisons with the pre-eminence of the monument and landscape of Stonehenge for Europe's late Stone Age.

HOOOH has published advice on how to support the interests of Old Oswestry in the current SAMDev review consultation, which runs to December 22. Details can be found on the Old Oswestry Facebook page

Christmas treat on way to help cheer up patients

CHRISTMAS Day lunch for patients at Shropshire's two main hospitals will be given a special touch this year, bosses have said.

Ian Stuart, from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust's (SATH) catering team, has been working on a project to make Christmas Day lunch special for those who find themselves at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

Ian has been able to secure charitable funds through the trust.

This means SATH is able to offer a more exclusive range of Christmas crackers and napkins, along with a slice of Christmas cake and a healthy fruit juice drink for patients this year.

Ian said: "No-one wants to spend their Christmas in hospital, so I wanted to do something to try and cheer patients up a little bit while they are here."

"I thought I would try and make Christmas Day lunch a bit of a treat with a few little extras for our patients."

Nick Parkin, SATH's senior catering manager, said: "Ian's continued commitment to patient wellbeing is fantastic, and he has worked extremely hard to bring this about."

"He is always trying to find ways to improve the experience of both patients and visitors alike—and this will hopefully enhance the experience for those that find themselves in hospital over the festive period."

The catering team will also be serving up breakfast baps for all trust staff who are working on Christmas Day.

StarReaderTravel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your weekly newspaper
in association with
Omega.



The Houses of Parliament

Departing Saturday 7 Apr
from Oswestry & Welshpool

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ Admission to the Palace of Westminster on Saturday, with self-guided audio tour
- ✓ Free time in London on Sunday

2 Days
by Coach **only £139**



The Grand National & Liverpool

Departing Saturday 14 Apr
from Oswestry & Welshpool

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, North West area
- ✓ Steeplechase Enclosure ticket at Aintree on Grand National Day
- ✓ En-route visit to Liverpool

2 Days
by Coach **only £150**

Coach package holidays are subject to Omega Holidays terms and conditions and are protected by a bond held with ABTA (No V4782). Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dba/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information
or to book, please call:

03300 130 051

or visit online at: **omegabreaks.com/RT**

Quote **OMRT**

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.



Travel with confidence
ABTA No. 91752

High profile DJs to star at festival

Report by Jonny Drury

A FESTIVAL near Oswestry has added a string of high profile DJs to its line-up as preparations are in full swing.

Fieldbounc Music Festival, the brainchild of former student Shawn Melusi, is steadily selling tickets after recently announcing acts Dappy and Scouting for Girls.

Mr Melusi has a target of 10,000 people for the event, being held at Park Hall near Oswestry on May 5.

He has helped the cause by announcing three more acts to the bill, including top Radio One DJ Danny Howard.

A former winner of the Radio One superstar DJ, Howard is a well known name across the globe and will be sure to pull in crowds to the Oswestry event.

Radio One extra DJ Melody Kane and Alex Mills have also been added to the line-up.

Mr Melusi is moving the marketing for the festival out to the cities of Manchester and Liverpool soon as he aims to attract the crowds.

Despite announced the top acts, he is also aiming to give local artists the chance to perform on the big stage.

Almost 100 bands and acts from around Shropshire have applied to perform, and others are expected.

He said: "Currently we have 93 people applying to perform, but for the first two hours we want to open it up to other acts, dancers and things like that to make it a big community feel."

"And we also want to offer the main stage to others, and we have acts from all genres to be announced."



Scouting For Girls will be joined by high profile DJs at Fieldbounc

CHRISTMAS IDEAS AT

Ableworld
www.ableworld.co.uk

Your Local Specialist

STAIRLIFTS

FITTED BEFORE CHRISTMAS*



LAST CHANCE

Reconditioned
from only
£495

*Straight Stairlifts if ordered by 19th December,
Subject to availability.

RISER RECLINERS

DELIVERED BEFORE CHRISTMAS*



LAST CHANCE

FROM ONLY
£349

*If ordered by the 19th December.
Subject to availability

SCOOTERS
FROM **£449***



4 Wheel Walker (Steel)

- Easily manoeuvrable
- Can be used inside or outside
- Includes a tray, basket and walking stick holder

REDUCED
£39.99*

Continence Care

Don't be caught short this Christmas -
stocks available in all stores

WHEELCHAIRS
FROM **£109***



Strolley Trolley

- Height adjustable household trolley with detachable trays
- Ideal for moving items around the home
- Weight limit 31 stone

ONLY
£49.99*

SHREWSBURY ABLEWORLD

Heathgates Bank Ditherington,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 4BB

Tel: (01743) 369427

shrewsbury@ableworld.co.uk

Free car park next to banbury windows

Further details on all our stores can be found on: www.ableworld.co.uk

OSWESTRY ABLEWORLD

The RJ and AH Orthopaedic Hospital
Gobowen, Oswestry, SY10 7AG

Tel: (01691) 680180

oswestry@ableworld.co.uk

Now At The Main Entrance



facebook.com/
ableworld

twitter.com/
AbleworldUK



www.ableworld.co.uk

Ableworld are the main mobility retailer in the area
approved as a Community Equipment Dispenser



NHS Vouchers Welcome Where Applicable

*VAT Exempt - Ask in Store for Details

MRP - Manufacturers Recommended Price.

Previous Price - Sold for 28 Days in Last 6 months at our Nantwich Store

Insurance/Warranty is arranged by Ableworld UK Ltd and provided through Mark Bates Ltd t/a Premier Care, Premier House, Londonthorpe Road, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9SN who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FRN 308390.

Apprentice star at career festival

THE 2016 winner of The Apprentice will be the keynote speaker at next year's Powys Careers Festival.

The March 7 event was formally launched in Bulth Wells at a special reception at the Royal Welsh Show Agricultural Society Winter Fair.

Powys County Council's cabinet member for education Councillor Myfanwy Alexander announced that Alana Spencer, who is managing director of the 'Ridiculously Rich' brand of handmade cakes and chocolates, will be passing on her experiences to high school, special school and college students from across the county.

Some 2,500 students from across the county attended the 2017 careers festival.

Organisers said even more are to be invited next year.

Craft and gift fair set to be staged

A CHRISTMAS craft and gift fair will be held in the Corn Exchange in Welshpool on Saturday between 9.30am and midday.

There will be a variety of craft and gift stalls plus a tombola and more. Teas and coffee will be served along with homemade cakes and mince pies. The event is being held in aid of the annual senior citizens party. The party will be held on January 30 and tickets are available from Welshpool Jewellers and Flaunt It Card Shop.

Chapel carol service

CEFN Chapel in Trewern near Welshpool will be celebrating a Christmas carol service next week.

A carols by candlelight evening service will be held on Thursday next week at 7pm.

Free light refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

No decision on empty homes says council boss

Report by Jonny Drury

NO decision has been made on whether empty council homes could be sold to a housing association in the future, members of a town council have been told by local authority bosses.

Shropshire Council Leader Peter Nutting was responding to a request from Oswestry Town Councillor Duncan Kerr, who was seeking clarification on the issue about the future of council housing.

Consultants have been asked by Shropshire Council to look at the possibility of selling more than 4,000 council homes in the county.

Most of the homes are in Oswestry and in Bridgnorth.

In response to Mr Kerr's inquiry, Mr Nutting said Shropshire Council had made no decisions on the issue.

He said the first concern in changes would always be the tenants and there are no plans to disadvantage them.

Mr Nutting added in an e-mail to the town council: "To achieve this we, and to meet the housing needs of our communities, we do have to look at the future and this includes Shropshire Council taking a proactive role in house building and the management of our housing stock."

Councillor Kerr argued that selling off council homes would contravene Theresa May's recent announcement to build council houses and not sell them.

Councillor Kerr also argued that the move would ignore the previously expressed wish of tenants in Oswestry to remain with the council.

Regional AM in town to discuss issues



Eluned Morgan with Mayor Steve Kaye and Town Clerk Robert Robinson

WELSH Labour Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales Eluned Morgan spent a recent Saturday afternoon in Welshpool visiting local businesses promoting the Shop Local campaign by distributing leaflets and posters.

She was accompanied by Welshpool Councillor Nicola Morris who said: "The visit was a great success and we managed to introduce Eluned to many local business owners and promote the campaign to shop locally."

"For every £1 spent locally, around 60p stays in the local economy; so the campaign helps local businesses and helps us all to have a thriving community and more local jobs."

In addition to meeting local business owners, the politician met Welshpool Mayor Steve Kaye and the Town Clerk Robert Robinson and stopped to chat to people who were enjoying the Welshpool Winter Fair.

Eluned Morgan's constituency covers a large area and the focus of the visit was not just about the Shop Local campaign.

It was also to meet some of the members of the Labour Party locally and discuss many topics including Brexit and the future for farming and the rural economy.

Funding is available to groups from bonfire night

APPLICATIONS are now being invited for grants from Oswestry's bonfire and fireworks community funding scheme.

The town council and the Borderland Rotary Club of Oswestry have established a grant fund from the proceeds of the Oswestry bonfire and fireworks evening.

Each year the intention is for all the income from the community event to be given out in community donations to support local clubs, organisations and other local events.

The establishment of the fund is as a result of the town council deciding not to recover their costs of fireworks purchase each year and this is added to the actual profits from the event.

Over the last 29 years of the event in excess of £80,000 has been distributed to local good causes.

Applications are now invited for funds available from the 2017 bonfire and fireworks evening.

Applicants must be based, and the activity to be funded, must be focussed on Oswestry itself. Grants will not fund staffing or administrative costs and the organisation must have a bank or building society account.

Funding will be given to initiatives which improve quality of life, promote and increase participation and volunteering, support the use of local facilities, support the purchase of equipment or fund educational visits or activities.

Application forms are available from Oswestry Town Council and the closing date for return is January 31.

Normally no grant will exceed £500 to ensure that the widest possible benefit from the overall fund is achieved.

For further information contact the town council on (01691) 680222.

StarReaderTravel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Les Misérables

'Les Miz', as it is affectionately known, is now the world's longest-running musical, with 100 international awards, including 8 Tonys, 5 Drama Desk and 2 Olivier Awards, for Best Musical, Best Score, Outstanding Music, Best Director, Best Design and a clutch of Best Actor gongs. The musical has been seen by 65 million people in 42 countries and translated into 22 languages. Set against the backdrop of a nation in the grip of revolutionary turmoil, it is arguably the world's most popular musical. The magnificent score includes the songs One Day More, I Dreamed A Dream and many more.

London Theatre Break

2 Days by Coach - Matinee

Departing Saturday 27 Jan

from Oswestry & Welshpool

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ Les Misérables theatre ticket (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London

2 Days by Coach only **£139**



"A potent example of 21st century musical theatre"
Daily Mail

Mamma Mia!

Inspired by the storytelling magic of ABBA's songs, from Dancing Queen and Take A Chance On Me to Super Trouper and Thank You For The Music, Mamma Mia! is an enchanting tale of family and friendship unfolding on a Greek Island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father unexpectedly brings together three men from her mother's past...

Mamma Mia! has now been seen by over 50 million people worldwide setting the record for premiering in more cities worldwide faster than any other musical in history.

London Theatre Break

2 Days by Coach - Matinee

Departing Saturday 27 Jan

from Oswestry & Welshpool

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ Mamma Mia! theatre ticket (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London

2 Days by Coach only **£149**



★★★★★
"Abba-solutely fabulous!"
Daily Mail

Your weekly newspaper
in association with

Omega

Also Available

on this package and date



2 Days by Coach only **£139**



2 Days by Coach only **£139**



2 Days by Coach only **£139**



2 Days by Coach only **£149**

Call or visit us online for even more top London shows and available dates

For more information or to book, please call:

03300 130 051

Quote OMRT

033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

or visit us online at

omegabreaks.com/RT

ABTA
Travel with confidence
ATA 94792

In most cases, tickets will be for seats located in middle/upper tiers of the venue which may require the negotiation of steps/stairs, which may be unsuitable for those with limited mobility. While most venues have lift access, these may not serve all seating areas. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

Ashwood

Stylish living for the over 55s

ShireLiving 
Live the life you choose



Festive open event!
16th December | 2pm – 5pm

Tour times:
2.30pm, 3.30pm and 4.30pm

Ashwood, Upper Ash Road, Oswestry, SY11 1PQ.

Call in for a tour,
have a chat and see
how our stylish
bungalows and
apartments can
benefit you.

www.shireliving.co.uk | 0800 0232244 | info@shireliving.co.uk

ShireLiving 
Live the life you choose

Ashwood - Oswestry | **Withywood** - Shrewsbury | **The Coppice** - Bickton

ShireLiving is a partnership between The Wrekin Housing Trust and Choices

18 College will reintroduce Spanish class

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, December 14, 2017

OSWESTRY'S North Shropshire College will be reintroducing Spanish classes for anybody wishing to take up a new language or refresh existing skills in the new year.

The course is being delivered from January over 10 weeks.

It takes place every Friday from 10.30am to 11.30am at the Festival Drayton Centre in Market Drayton.

The aim is to introduce learners to important conversation skills, from introducing yourself, ordering food and drink at restaurants and shops, through to asking for directions and learning about Spanish culture.

Yolanda Griffiths, Spanish tutor at the college, said: "The course provides an excellent opportunity for learners to experience a new language in a fun and relaxing environment.

"This allows them to learn at a comfortable pace and the course has proved to be extremely popular with those who have attended in the past. We hope to continue the success of last year's course, and we look forward to meeting our new students when the course commences in the new year."

For more information about Spanish courses at the college, visit the website at www.nsc.ac.uk or call (01691) 688000 for more information.

Landowners given advice on power line

LANDOWNERS that could be directly affected by a proposed 132kv overhead electricity line are being urged to seek professional advice before making final comments on the project.

The power line is to be installed from Oswestry to Wem.

The project has been put together to improve the electricity supply to homes and businesses.

Shaun Jones, a rural professional director at Halls in Shrewsbury, says Scottish Power Energy Networks is inviting comments on its plans.

The plans are available online.

Comments to the plans must be made by February 2.

Mr Jones said: "I encourage any landowner who will be directly affected by the proposed routes to make any final comments at this stage because SPEN will shortly be seeking Government approval for the proposed scheme.

"Halls has considerable experience in wayleave and easement issues and in negotiating compensation for landowners and occupiers.

"We are appointed rural valuers to the NFU's panel and can advise on agreeing accommodation works before any utility scheme construction starts."

Village church is set to host events

A SERIES of festive events will be staged by a village church near Oswestry in the run-up to Christmas.

People are being urged to join in at St Silin's Church in Llansilin to celebrate Christmas at any of the events taking place this December.

On Saturday at 6pm there will be the annual carol service.

Organisers say this is a chance to enjoy favourite and well known traditional carols.

On Christmas Eve at 11.15pm there will be the Midnight Holy Communion.

An unusual special service will be on New Year's Eve morning at St Cedwyn's Church, Llangedwyn, at 10.30am.

On this occasion the churches of the Tanat Valley will be joining together for a drama.

The drama will be called Presenting the Facts about Christmas.

Throughout the month the crown of light on the tower will be shining out across the village and the Cynllaith Valley and welcoming people to the church.

Donations in support and appreciation of this popular spectacle will continue to be collected for charity.

The charities to benefit are Severn Hospice and Hope House Children's Hospice.

Motorists are urged by police to avoid drink and drugs before driving this Christmas

Report by James Pugh

Officers will also be increasing the number of patrols across West Mercia.

Police said there is no foolproof way of calculating how much you can drink and remain under the limit.

Calculate

It is hard to calculate how long alcohol may stay in your body if you are driving the morning after so the safest option if you are driving is to drink no alcohol at all, they said.

They added there are plenty of alternatives available with public transport, taxis and sharing designated drivers.

Pedestrians are also being encouraged by the police to stay safe during the festive season and to plan safe routes home and to drink responsibly.

Assistant Chief Constable Martin Evans for West Mercia Police said: "There are still people out there who feel they can gamble with drinking and driving and think they know how much the limit is.

"Cracking down on those who take drugs or drink and then decide to drive is a year round commitment for us.

"However, we are very aware the festive season can present opportunities where people are tempted to drive under the influence.

"To combat this, extra patrols will be conducted in the run up to and over Christmas and

New Year in a bid to tackle those who commit the unacceptable act of drinking or drug driving.

"The simple fact is, there is only one way of being sure that you are safe to drive and that is not to drink at all."

The campaign supports the month long winter drink-drive campaign by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC).

Police forces throughout the UK will be working hard throughout December to make sure the roads are safe for everyone this Christmas.

West Mercia Police said enforcing the drink and drug drive law is a 24/7 commitment, and to reflect this police officers will be enforcing at all times of the day and night.

Action call made to ensure youth clubs can continue

Report by Jonny Drury

A COUNCIL has been urged to do what it can to keep youth clubs running in five towns.

Powys County Council has confirmed that youth club buildings are to be sold off in Welshpool, Newtown, Brecon, Ystradgynlais and Llandrindod Wells, under measures to save the authority £500,000 a year.

Welshpool County Councillor Graham Breeze has said the authority is obligated to ensure the service continues in some format, even if the premises are sold off.

He has asked county council bosses to try to find a way to ensure the service is not lost completely.

Councillor Breeze said: "Youth clubs are vanishing all across Wales because of the costs involved and the problem is greater in Powys where once again the authority has received less funding from Welsh Government for the next financial year.

Avenues

"I have asked portfolio holder Rachel Powell to explore all avenues to ensure the service is not lost completely and know she is looking closely at all opportunities to work with the youth in the towns affected."

Councillor Breeze questioned whether secondary schools buildings in the towns could step in to fill the gap created by the sales of the buildings.

He said: "All the towns where clubs are listed to close have marvellous secondary schools.

"We must find a way to utilise these facilities along with the highly experienced staff who work in our youth clubs to find an alternative method of running the service."

Discussions

Councillor Breeze said he is also aware that Welshpool Town Council has opened discussions with the local authority about the possible closures.

He said: "Youth clubs have provided a terrific service in Powys for generations and as a former club leader I am well aware of the impact closure will have on many families.

"Methods to fill the void left by building closures must be found.

"I am aware that in Welshpool the town council has initiated talks with the county authority and I am sure similar discussions will now take place across Powys."

Pub's ale sales are recognised by brewery



Oakham Ales managing director Adrian Posnett, Duncan Borrowman, Grace Goodlad and Oakham Ales head brewer Alex Kean.

A PUB has been recognised by Oakham Ales as one of 20 pubs in the country selling more than 75 or more brewers barrels or 21,000 pints of their products over the past year.

Husband and wife owners of The Bailey Head in Oswestry, Grace Goodlad and Duncan Borrowman, collected a trophy and certificate from Oakham's managing director Adrian Posnett and head brewer Alex Kean at an awards dinner at the Brewery Tap in Peterborough.

Grace said: "Duncan and I would like to

thank all of our loyal customers who have put The Bailey Head on the map since we opened.

"If it wasn't for them we wouldn't be here to collect this, it is a shame we couldn't get them all along to receive this with us.

"We will be proudly displaying the certificate and trophy in the pub, alongside our awards from the Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Campaign for Real Ale".

Oakham Ales managing director Adrian Posnett said: "It was wonderful to catch up with a

number of pubs across the country who have supported Oakham over the years as well as meeting pubs who qualified for this event for the first time."

The brewery boss added: "This is my favourite event of the year.

"It's always an incredibly special evening where we get to say a big thank you to those who have, and continue to, support us by putting Oakham Ales in pride of place in their pubs."

Construction firm helps youngsters build future

A CONSTRUCTION company is helping young people build a better future by lending its support to a programme by the Prince's Trust.

Pave Aways, which has its headquarters at Knockin near Oswestry, is providing expert advice and equipment to the Team programme in Shrewsbury, which aims to help unemployed young people aged between 16 and 25 gain teamwork, communication and employability skills.

The firm has already helped a group from the charity build a 20 metre path for improved

wheelchair access, and a landing area for emergency services at the Hartlands care home in Shrewsbury.

Staff supported the group's fundraising which was needed to undertake the project and also provided expert advice from construction director Jamie Evans and planner Stefan Ivanovic as well as a mixer, shovels, safety helmets, hi-vi vests and personal protection equipment to the workers.

Pave Aways managing director Steven Owen said: "The work that the Prince's Trust is doing

is crucial to helping these young people work towards a better future so we are delighted to be able to play a part in this programme.

"During the first project, Jamie and Stefan helped them design and plan the work and, as a company, we supported their fundraising efforts which included a cake sale, sponsored swim and a car wash. Pave Aways also donated left over material from our construction sites across Shropshire and Wales for the job.

"We are very much looking forward to supporting the next cohort and one of my tasks will

be to share my story of how I grew from being a farm worker's son to the director of a multi million pound business to hopefully give them some encouragement."

Kevin Faulkner, Prince's Trust team leader for Shrewsbury, added: "It is fantastic that a local business is involved with the Team programme and Pave Aways have helped the young people of Shropshire tremendously with the supply of knowledge and materials for them to complete large scale community projects, which in turn benefit the community."

Spacious detached house enjoys some stunning views

Kappara, Spring Bank, Trefonen near Oswestry is a spacious detached house with stunning views towards The Shropshire Plain.

Being a short distance of the village amenities, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £425,000 with no chain.

The property occupies a quiet elevated position in Trefonen which has a public house, church, shop, sought after primary school and is convenient for the border market town of Oswestry, with its excellent traditional shopping facilities and access roads to Wrexham, Chester and Shrewsbury. The accommodation is set over four floors with four half staircases and has oil fired central heating and double glazing.

It has a covered porch similar to a large front veranda, a reception hall with stairs off, a lounge with a marble fireplace, patio doors and a fitted carpet. The sitting room has a brick fireplace, patio doors and a fitted carpet. Off the first floor is a galleried landing. A study has fitted office furniture and laminate flooring.

The dining room has fitted carpet and there is a cloakroom/WC. The kitchen has a range of modern oak units comprising of matching wall and base cupboards, spacious worktops, plumbing for a dishwasher, Neff appliances and tile flooring. The utility has a second sink, worktop, plumbing for a washing machine, matching wall and base cupboards, a fitted store cupboard and an oak stable external door. On the second floor is bedroom one with a dressing room and an en-suite and bedroom two. The third floor galleried landing has a large airing cupboard. The bathroom has a five piece suite including a whirlpool corner bath and a bidet. There are three further bedrooms on this floor.

Outside, the property is approached over a tarmacadam drive providing ample car parking and turning area leading to a detached double garage with two up and over front doors and a top floor store room/ play room. There is an attractive front veranda and patio with large front lawned garden.

KEY FEATURES

- Spacious detached house
- Stunning views
- Five bedrooms
- Large garden & double garage
- Solar panels

TREFONEN £425,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: JJ Dell & Co
TEL: 01691 653437
EMAIL: property@jydell.co.uk



M. Bufton

Renewable Heating Systems Ltd

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
ALL OUR CUSTOMERS**



We specialise in integrating biomass with existing systems

- Natural and LPG Gas
- Oil
- Solid Fuel
- Solar
- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Under Floor Heating
- Electrical Installations
- Wood Chip/ Pellet
- Boiler Replacements



Unit 55,
Mochdre Industrial Estate,
Newtown, Powys SY16 4LE
Telephone: 01686 623238

admin@m-bufton.co.uk
www.m-bufton.co.uk



Converted chapel situated in quiet lane in village

LLANFECHAIN
£125,000

Swn Yr Afon in the picturesque village of Llanfechain is on the market through Town and Country for £125,000.

There is no chain.

This charmingly quaint two bedroom mid terrace converted chapel is situated on a quiet lane on the edge of the village.

As the name suggests "Swn Yr Afon" which is Welsh for Sound of the River, the property is located close to the river, where the flowing sounds are relaxing enough to calm you to sleep.

Accommodation at the property briefly comprises hallway, kitchen/breakfast room, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom.

There are gardens to the front and rear of the property with private parking at the rear.



The house is warmed with thermodynamic radiators.

The village amenities include a community shop, village hall, church, primary school and a pub/restaurant.

The market town of Welshpool and Oswestry are only a short distance away.

The village property is an ideal first time buy or holiday let.

Viewing is recommended to appreciate this property and its location. The vendor will offer to pay stamp duty depending on the offer and if it is to be your only residence.

For more information about the property people are asked to contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.



Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

KYNASTON
£549,950

>>>>

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £549,950. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Charming home situated in desirable area on outskirts of town

OSWESTRY
£325,000

<<<

A charming three-bedroom detached house in a desirable residential area on the outskirts of town, 32 Hampton Rise, Oswestry, is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000.

The ground floor includes large spacious rooms whilst the first floor includes a large family bathroom. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property stands on an excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens, a driveway and single garage. Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this home.

Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 595003.



Former pub has been upgraded to a spacious family home

MELVERLEY
£480,000

>>>

In a pleasant location, Tontine Inn in Church Lane, Melverley, Oswestry is a former public house that has now been upgraded to become a spacious family home or run as a bed and breakfast.

The property is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £480,000.

Having oil-fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it features a large sun room, an open plan living/dining room with an impressive fireplace and seven first floor bedrooms all having en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities.

The grounds include useful detached stores/workshop or a garage. Access is readily available to the towns of Shrewsbury and Welshpool and the market town of Oswestry.

For further information about the property people should contact the staff at Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Home situated on outskirts of village and has fine views

LLANGYNOG
£450,000

Ty Hywel is situated on the outskirts of Llangynog village in the picturesque Tanat Valley and affording fine views across the neighbouring farmland and surrounding hills.

The home is a spacious detached property situated in a large plot with the benefit of an adjoining paddock.

It is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £450,000.

The property is an individually designed spacious detached dormer house constructed traditionally of stone and brick under a slated roof.

The well appointed accommodation has the benefit of outstanding views across the valley and beyond, double glazing and oil fired heating.

Accommodation comprises covered porch, reception hall, living room, dining room and breakfast kitchen.

There is also a utility and cloakroom.



On the first floor is an ensuite bedroom and three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

The property is set in all approximately two acres access via a wide six bar gate onto tarmacadam driveway with ample parking and turning area.

There are front and side lawned gardens.

There is a large side pergola with patio area.

The property has a terraced rear brick walled lawn with pergola, paved terrace, docked area with Hot Spring avant garde hydrotherapy hot tub.

There is a rear grass paddock with chicken hutch.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Retirement home in semi-rural location near popular village

GOBOWEN
£104,950

<<<

A retirement bungalow situated on an attractive purpose built complex, 24 Meadowbrook Court, Twmpath Lane, Gobowen, has the benefit of a semi-rural location.

The retirement bungalow is for someone with a minimum age of 55 and is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £104,950. The property is ideally situated close to the orthopaedic hospital between Oswestry and Gobowen. The accommodation allows a high degree of independence with the benefit of support staff 24 hours a day. Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, two bedrooms, bathroom/wet room, rear hall, cloakroom, lounge/dining area, conservatory, kitchen and integral garage. The property also has the benefit of a rear vehicle access leading to the garage.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.





Nine-year high in remortgage approvals ahead of base rate hike

The number of remortgage approvals being made jumped to a nine-year high just before the Bank of England base rate was hiked in November, figures show.

Some 51,593 remortgage approvals were recorded by the Bank of England in October – the highest figure since October 2008.

On November 2, in a move that was widely anticipated, the Bank of England base rate was raised from 0.25% to 0.5%, meaning some variable rate mortgage holders faced the prospect of higher costs.

Many home owners may have been looking to remortgage to a cheaper deal in the weeks leading up to the base rate hike.

The Bank's figures also show that the number of mortgages being approved for house purchase fell to a 13-month low of 64,575 in October.

And the report showed a further cooldown in the annual growth in consumer credit – to its lowest levels in a year and a half.

Consumer credit, which includes borrowing using credit cards, personal loans and overdrafts, showed annual growth of 9.6% in October, edging down from 9.8% in September and 10% in August.

Competitive

Mark Harris, chief executive of mortgage broker SPF Private Clients, said: "Mortgage rates continue to be competitive despite the base rate rise earlier this month."

Howard Archer, chief economic adviser at EY ITEM Club, said: "It remains to be seen whether the Bank of England's interest rate hike on November 2 will have a marked dampening impact on consumer borrowing.

"While the increase was just 25 basis points and interest rates are still at historically very low levels, a number of consumers could be vulnerable given high borrowing levels.

"There may also be a psychological impact on potential borrowers given that it was the first interest rate hike since 2007."

He continued: "The Bank of England will be pleased with the slowdown in consumer credit in October and will be looking for a continuation of this trend.

"There are clear signs that lenders are markedly reining in the amount of unsecured credit available to consumers and also tightening their lending standards."

Home buyers 'not confident' Budget targets will be met

Most home owners, landlords and first-time buyers are not confident targets set in the recent Budget will be met, or that it will address the current house building crisis.

The Budget announced an extensive house building agenda that would see an extra 300,000 homes a year being built by the mid-2020s, a 100% increase in council tax for empty properties, and an exemption on stamp duty for first-time buyers.

But a poll taken in the days after the Budget by Property Price Advice has found that first-time buyers were split on the announcement that stamp duty would not apply to their first home providing it was less than £300,000 or the first £300,000 of any property under £500,000.

A property sold at £490,000 to a first-time buyer would therefore pay stamp duty of £9,500 under this scheme, whereas a property sold at £510,000 would pay £15,500 in stamp duty regardless of who bought it.

Decision

Around 53% were encouraged by the news and felt they would be able to buy their first home sooner as a result, whereas 26% stated it wouldn't affect their purchasing decision.

A further 21% felt it actually discouraged them, with one noting that flats in London are often substantially above the £500,000 cap.

In addition, 44% of first-time buyers stated that the Government isn't doing enough to help them buy, with one noting that much of the problem lay with the issue of salary multiples, particularly for those working in critical services.

Empty properties have been the target



of substantial criticism, yet landlords were broadly confident.

The majority would factor any additional council tax costs into the rent if this affected them, with around 29% stating that it wouldn't affect them anyway.

One noted that there should be a mechanism to evaluate why properties are empty, stating that there could be reasons other than just a lack of will to let it out.

The majority, some 71% of respondents, believed that targets were unlikely to be met with respect to house building.

Respondents commented that a greater

volume of cheaper homes were needed, but they were unlikely to be built because of the need for higher margins, with land values and land banks being perceived as a problem.

Solutions

One of the solutions announced in the Budget was to remove the cap on Housing Revenue Accounts for certain local councils, which may go some way to solving this issue.

Another area of concern was in planning laws, with 61% stating that planning laws do affect the number of houses being

built. A similar percentage stated that greenbelt planning permissions should not be relaxed, with many commenting that brownfield sites should be used instead.

Brownfield sites proved to be a popular solution, primarily because there was a perception that derelict sites were an eyesore and that they were underutilised.

A large number questioned the Budget's aims and claims relating to housing. Many felt that the priority should be focused on planning reform, prioritising social housing and utilising brownfield sites, and a large proportion felt that the stamp duty aspects would not affect them.

Bad 'experiences' put tenants off letting a home

Some 80% of prospective tenants in the UK's private rented sector have been put off renting a property due to a misleading property advert or because of a bad experience when viewing the property.

A new survey of 33,000 tenants has highlighted a difference between what tenants want and what letting agents give them. In addition, there clearly remains a tendency to oversell on the part of letting agents, when, in reality, tenants would prefer realism and honesty, the survey report from online lettings agency Upad says.

It found that tenants are put off by unappealing property photos and they generally find that in adverts the size of properties, particularly the size of bedrooms, were wildly overstated. In particular they won't visit a property if the photos are dark and don't show what the home is really like.

"I'm really busy and do most of my research online so I only click on those properties that are presented well. Dark photos that make rooms tiny and unappealing are a real turn off," said one respondent.

"I'm not really interested in what the property looks like from the outside, but most adverts seem to have loads of these and to be honest I tend to just skip past these when searching. Show me all of the room inside the house, where I'm actually going to spend my time, instead," said another.



One tenant went to view what was described as a 'very private' property, only to find it was built in the landlord's garden and that they wanted to conduct weekly inspections. Tenants also hate when en-suite bathrooms are mentioned in adverts but they turn out to be a bath, toilet, and basin situated actually in a bedroom.

Tenants rate being able to meet the landlord. "I want to meet the landlord. Having a face-to-face experience with the other key person involved in the tenancy is a must so I can get a gut feeling to how good and responsive a landlord they are going to be," one explained.

Examples of other things that put off tenants is seeing a property advertised in the headline as a family home and then further down in the details it says 'no children'. Rooms described as double bedrooms that don't actually have room for a double bed also puts off prospective tenants.

"These results show that not only are there still elements of overbearing and downright misleading salesmanship going on in the private rental market, but that tenants still aren't buying it," said Upad chief executive officer James Davis.

"It's quite frightening that there are 20% of tenants who still move into a property having had an experience such as this, as they may feel they have no choice but to choose from the best of a bad bunch," he pointed out.

"Even just doing the basics and catering to what tenants are looking for, could make a huge difference. As landlords, tenants are our customers after all. Any other business that doesn't work to meet its customers' needs will fail, and being a landlord is no different," he explained.

"While there are large numbers of letting agents and landlords out there who do an exceptional job, I'd encourage anyone involved in renting out properties to consider their approach. By trying to oversell, all letting agents and landlords are doing is keeping properties empty for longer," he added.

'Never event' error in eye unit revealed in report to bosses at Shropshire health trust

A SERIOUS medical "never event" has taken place, according to the trust that controls Shropshire's two main hospitals.

It was one of 10 "serious incidents" recorded by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust in October.

A report to the trust board said the "never event" was in ophthalmology, which deals with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases of the eye and visual system.

The 'never event', so named because they are incidents that guidelines say should never happen, was the first to be recorded by the trust since November last year.

Chief executive of the trust, Simon Wight, said it had involved a "locum", and they had

Report by Lisa O'Brien

been "terminated immediately" as processes were not followed.

According to the report, which was written by associate director of patient safety Dee Radford, the never event involved an "incorrect lens implant".

It says the trust, which runs Telford's Princess Royal Hospital and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, was contacted by the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch as a result.

The report states: "All incidents will be investigated using the trust processes for serious incident investigations and the reports sub-

mitted to the commissioners when complete.

"The trust was contacted by the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) to take part in a national review of never events, specifically around the incorrect insertion of intraocular lenses.

"As the never event we reported was the most recent reported nationally they were keen to visit us as soon as possible and have carried out a review during the week of November 13.

"The team will be visiting other trusts as part of this review and will publish their results in due course.

"Feedback received from the HSIB so far was that trust staff had been open and wel-

coming to the team which they found extremely helpful."

The other serious incidents recorded in October related to a delay in treatment or delayed transfer, delayed diagnosis, adult safeguarding, a grade three pressure ulcer and complication of surgery.

It is the highest number of serious incidents recorded by the trust within a single month this year.

The report also says that there were three new cases of clostridium difficile, known as C.diff, during October.

It means there have been 18 cases of C.diff since the start of April. C.diff is a type of bacterial infection affecting the digestive system.

Preparations for pressures of the winter

SHREWSBURY and Telford hospitals say they must get their bed occupancy rates down to 85 per cent if they are to cope with winter pressures on the NHS.

The hospitals' NHS trust is currently running at 97 per cent full, similar to most areas in the UK.

Fear that a flu epidemic, similar to that being experienced in Australia, might hit Shropshire is one of the scenarios looked at under the winter planning document being put in place.

The plan was taken to the joint health scrutiny committee of Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Council on Tuesday last week. Simon Wright, chief executive of SATH, Shropshire and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, said this year the trust and partner bodies had looked at prevention as a main way of reducing the time patients spend in hospital. "We want to better utilise the beds rather than trying to increase bed capacity, capacity that may not be there," he said. He said SATH was looking at ways for patients to get easier access to treatment while an in-patient in hospital so that they were not having to remain in hospital waiting for that treatment.

The meeting heard that surgical activity would be reduced for the first three weeks in January to allow for an expected increase in medical beds. "We are also prepared to open beds that are not at the moment open in case there is a flu epidemic similar to that being seen in Australia," Mr Wright said.

New maternity model 'will improve service to mothers'

Report by Sue Austin

PROPOSED community midwifery hubs will provide better services than currently available, one of those involved in drawing up a new model for the county has said.

Fiona Ellis from Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group said a minimum of five community hubs would be open for 12 hours a day with doctor and obstetric services under the changes.

However, she confirmed that mothers would only be able to give birth at the Princess Royal and Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals or at home.

The news of the plans, which are subject to consultation, has angered campaigners who want to see births return to the midwife led units at Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Oswestry, which are currently closed because of a shortage of midwives.

She told a meeting of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils joint health scrutiny committee that the model of midwifery care for the area had been drawn up to level up the service.

"The maternity hubs will be open for at least 12 hours a day for planned midwifery care and there will also be access to, and support from a midwife 24/7," she said.

She also moved to reassure people concerned about the potential travel distances for mothers to give birth.

She said: "Getting to your place of birth in time is the main thing that mothers-to-be are concerned about and the excellent triage services will enable midwives to ensure that happens.

"Services will include scanning and obstetrics and access to a doctor.

"Post natal support will include help with emotional health and well being, feeding and bonding."

Chairman of the committee, Councillor Karen Calder, said that meetings she had attended recently had included listening to local midwives speaking, which had made for difficult listening.

She said: "It made for very hard listening.

"It was obvious that the only thing that was keeping the service standing was the goodwill of the staff.

"This was a service under extreme pressure



People gathering in Castle Square, Ludlow, to protest at the potential closure of three midwife-led maternity units in Shropshire

and now is exactly the right time to take a look at its future."

Under the CCG proposal, which will go out to consultation, midwife hubs would be launched in Shrewsbury, Telford, Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow, which could lead to the closure of Midwife-Led Units in Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Oswestry.

The units, which have been closed to women giving birth for the past six months due to staffing problems, are due to reopen on January 1.

Ludlow councillor Tracey Huffer has been highly critical of the plan.

She said: "The plan, still subject to confirmation, is that only prenatal and postnatal

services will be offered at Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Oswestry maternity units.

"Babies will have to be born somewhere else.

"As we have seen in Ludlow, that will sometimes be at home without medical support.

"This downgrading of rural services has been described by one medical professional as 'a real and exciting opportunity'.

Councillor Huffer, who is also a practising nurse, added: "The whole consultation over the future of rural maternity units has been a charade.

"This proposal makes a mockery of all of us who gave time up to attend so-called consultation workshops."

The CCG plans have also been criticised by campaigners in Oswestry who organised a march in July against fears the maternity unit would be downgraded.

Hundreds of people joined the march from Oswestry town centre to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen where the maternity unit is sited. A group of marchers also walked from Gobowen village centre to the hospital to make their voices heard. The march was organised by mother of four Liz Grayston who said the plans were putting mothers and babies at risk. Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt last week criticised the fresh moves from the CCG, said he feared babies would be born at the side of the A5 in ambulances.

Births can now be registered at hospital

A WALK-IN birth registration service is now available in the maternity unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

The Shropshire Council service, which launched this week, will be available on Mondays and Thursdays between 9.30am and noon, and 12.45pm to 4pm.

It will be based in the main corridor before the midwife-led unit, which is accessible through the ophthalmology entrance.

For those whose babies were born in the Shropshire Council area, they will be able to purchase birth certificates at a cost of £4 each.

For those whose babies were born outside the Shropshire Council area, including in Telford & Wrekin, Powys and Staffordshire, parents will be able to make a declaration of particulars, but no certificate will be issued by the registrar.

Payment for the certificate should be made with the registration service where the baby was born.

Anthea Gregory-Page, deputy head of midwifery at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SATH), which runs the RSH, said: "SATH, in collaboration with Shropshire Council, are very pleased to announce that the registrar of births will be returning to Shrewsbury maternity once more.

"This newly-revised service will enable parents to have greater choice when it comes to registering the birth of their baby."

Couple donate £5k to cancer charity

A NEWLY married couple have donated more than £5,000 to charity.

Richard and Louise Evans were married at Middle Sylfaen, near Welshpool, on August 19, with a successful charity event held the following Sunday.

The groom's father Gareth, of Llanaif Caereinion, was successfully treated for bowel cancer in 2006 and it was decided to donate the money raised to Bowel Cancer UK. The couple have now donated a cheque for £5,200 to Lowri Griffiths, Bowel Cancer UK Wales representative. The couple said: "Our thanks to everyone who gave prizes, donated money and supported this fundraising event, without your generous support we could not have raised this substantial sum."

'Last resort' two-week night closure plan for A&E

THE accident and emergency department at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital will close overnight for up to two weeks if staff levels drop too low.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust's board agreed the contingency plan at a recent meeting.

However, bosses have stressed it will only be implemented as a last resort.

If the contingency plan is activated, A&E at PRH would close between the hours of 8pm to 8am for up to two weeks, with night staff

from PRH being relocated to Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Shrewsbury's accident and emergency would expand its capacity by utilising the fracture clinic space or the urgent care centre.

The fracture clinic would be relocated to the outpatient department and West Midlands Ambulance Service and neighbouring health trusts would be informed.

Debbie Kadum, chief operating officer, told board members during the meeting that before the contingency plan is put into action

staff would liaise with neighbouring health trusts to see if they can offer any help.

She said: "We can't plan for every eventual-ity. There would be a very early view whether we believe it would go beyond two weeks. There would then be a decision about what else we can do."

Chief executive Simon Wright said the plan would only be put in place if absolutely necessary. He said: "It is our intention to keep our two units open. We have been working incredibly hard to maintain that position."

The health trust had wanted to agree a different contingency plan but it was found that it could not be delivered within a three-month time frame. A report said: "As a trust, we have an obligation to maintain services for our patients, regardless of disruptive events or interruptions, and to ensure we return to business as usual as soon as possible. On this basis a plan has been agreed which would support the closure of PRH emergency department overnight (8pm to 8am) for up to two weeks in the event of there being insufficient cover."

Help To Buy scheme aids thousands

MORE than 2,000 homebuyers in Shropshire have used Help To Buy since the scheme was launched.

New figures released by the Homes and Communities Agency have revealed that a total of 2,092 homebuyers in the county have used the scheme since it was launched four years ago.

Within the county, Telford and Wrekin made the best use of the scheme, with 1,304 people using it.

Nearly 80 per cent of those have been first-time buyers, with 1,644 homes being bought by first timers in Shropshire using Help to Buy.

The scheme enables anyone, both first-time buyers and existing owners, to put down five per cent as a deposit for their new home and to take advantage of a Government equity loan providing access to more affordable mortgage rates.

Help to Buy allows any homebuyer to secure a new home under the value of £600,000 with a five per cent deposit.

The Government lends the buyer 20 per cent of the value of the property in the form of an interest-free equity loan for five years, meaning that buyers then need a 75 per cent mortgage.

The news comes after it was revealed that more than 10,000 extra homes are planned for the county by 2036.

Shropshire Council is reviewing its local plan, moving it forward by 10 years.

Although almost 19,000 homes are already set to be built in the county, the plan says a further 10,000 will be needed by 2036.

Store will be full of festive fun for all

THE countdown to Christmas has officially begun in a store.

The Mid Counties Co-operative in Churchstoke, near Welshpool, is celebrating a month of festivities with a special Christmas shop and Santa's grotto.

Children hoping to receive something special this Christmas will have the opportunity to share their wish list with Santa himself and collect a present when he visits the grotto throughout December.

He will be visiting every Saturday and Sunday in December until the big day, as well as December 20, 21 and 22. The store is also giving children the chance to meet other very special guests on Saturday when it will be hosting Santa's reindeer for the day.

The end of the festive countdown will be marked with a children's winter wonderland party hosted in-store on December 23, which will include a snow machine, music and games. Vincent Sage, store manager, said: "Christmas is always an exciting time for the team here at Churchstoke and we are looking forward to welcoming children to Santa's grotto so they can meet the man himself."

Thefts reported to police officers

POLICE are investigating two incidents in Oswestry town centre.

A shop in Beatrice Street, Oswestry, was broken into between 3.30pm on December 3 and 10am on December 4.

Two machines and a laptop were taken. Between 2pm and 3pm on December 3 a mint blue Mafia bike was taken from outside a store in Cross Street.

Police have appealed for anyone who knows about either crime or who may have seen anything suspicious to contact them on 101.

Spiritual group meets

OSWESTRY Spiritual Centre has its last meeting of 2017 this evening (Thursday) in the Cambrian Room, Memorial Hall, Oswestry, from 7.30pm to 9pm.

The cost is £3.50.

Picture focus



Sharon Worsnop, Kate Thomas, Kelly Lowe, Helen Knight, Gayle Parker, and Julia Allinson



The Macmillan Winter Wonderland Ball was held at the British Ironwork Centre



Guests attend the Macmillan Winter Wonderland Ball at the British Ironwork Centre

Winter Wonderland Ball raises £20,000 for charity

Report by Jonny Drury

MORE than £20,000 was raised to help support those suffering with cancer during a ball which took place at a visitor attraction near Oswestry.

More than 460 people turned out to support Macmillan at its Winter Wonderland Ball.

The popular event is run by a volunteer committee.

The ball was being held for a fourth year, with all money going towards funding Macmillan professionals within Shropshire.

It was hosted by the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry.

The business decorated the room with a suitably festive layout.

Kate Thomas, Shropshire fundraising manager for the charity, said she was delighted with how the event went and also the way the British Ironwork Centre had worked hard to ensure the night was memorable.

She said: "It was an amazing night.

Magical

"The Ironwork Centre decorated and it was very magical.

"Lots of sculptures, Christmas trees and even polar bears.

"It looked absolutely brilliant.

"We had a band, so there was live music, a cocktail bar – it was a great night."

Although the final figure hasn't come in, Kate said that they believed they had raised in the region of £20,000 during the night.

"The money will go towards helpful people affected by cancer," she said.

"We fund a number of professionals around the county.

"We've got around 40 specialists in Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Telford which this money will help fund."

Some of the money was raised through an auction, which had a surprise lot.

The British Ironwork Centre agreed to sell off one of its silver gorillas.

The gorillas have been made by the centre in follows in the footsteps of the business's huge Spoon Gorilla which was famously made by the firm for TV entertainer and magician Uri Geller.

Thousands of spoons were used to fashion the gorilla.

"On behalf of Macmillan, thank you to all committee members, sponsors, volunteers and to the ironworks for all their support," Kate



Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt has a dance with his 15-year-old daughter Amber

said. The evening was hosted by Clive Knowles, chairman and founder of the British Ironwork Centre.

The audience was made up of a mix of companies and local people, including mayor of Oswestry Vince Hunt.

The mayor was accompanied to the event by his Mayoress, his 15-year-old daughter Amber.

Auctioneer Jeremy Lamond, fine art director of Halls in Shrewsbury, ran the auction.

He sold two opportunities to charter a yacht based in Parma for three days for £7,000 and £6,500.

Other high selling lots were the ironworks gorilla sculpture for £1,800, a holiday in a penthouse in Marbella for £900, an elephant sculpture for £850, tickets for the CarFest for £850, VIP tickets for This Morning with Philip Schofield and Holly Willoughby for £700 and tickets for Loose Women for £500.



Host Clive Knowles with fundraising manager for Macmillan Shropshire Kate Thomas and volunteer Helen Knight

The event, the fourth to be organised by Macmillan Cancer Support in Shropshire, was attended by a record 465 guests. Organiser Helen Knight said the previous three events had raised a combined sum of £60,000 for the charity. This year's profit is still being calculated but she is hoping for a record total. She revealed that the sum raised by the auction was a record for the event and she praised the important contribution made by Mr Lamond.

Council is told it can keep crucial funding after vital bed blocking targets are met

SHROPSHIRE Council will retain crucial funding after meeting targets on bed blocking.

The authority had faced the threat of a significant amount of government funding being withdrawn if its work to prevent bed blocking, known as delayed transfers of care, did not improve.

When the news emerged in September the council joined forces with eight other local authorities to warn of a "catastrophe" if the money, from the Improved Better Care Fund, was withheld.

However, now the council has revealed that it has improved the rates of delayed transfers of care, meaning it is no longer at risk of losing the funding.

Councillor Lee Chapman, Shropshire Coun-

Report by Dominic Robertson

cil's cabinet member for adult social care, health and housing, praised the work of staff in improving the authority's performance.

He said: "No-one wishes to be in hospital longer than is necessary and in adult social care we work to support people to be discharged as soon as they are well.

"We are delighted that in September we exceeded the target that had been set nationally for us.

"I would like to offer my congratulations to all those involved who I know have worked extremely hard to ensure that people return home from hospital as soon as possible."

He added: "This is a great result from the team."

Delayed transfers of care take place when a patient is fit to leave hospital but is unable to because of a lack of care in place for when they depart.

A report from Shropshire Council officer Tanya Miles states that the council was asked to reduce the number of people delayed in the transfer of their care, to 6.7 people per day by September.

The most recent figures show the authority had reduced the figure to 3.16.

The report states: "From April 2014 there was a gradual increase in the number of delayed days attributed to this council culminating in a peak in December 2016.

"Performance targets were set by the NHS in July 2017 and were required to be met by September 2017 (published in November 2017).

"Failure to achieve the targets could result in Shropshire New money (Improved Better Care Fund) being reduced 2018/19. Performance since July has been closely monitored and action has been taken to address the number of delays. Shropshire delays attributed to adult social care were required to be no more than an average of 6.7 patients per day. During the current year the monthly number of delayed bed days has reduced. Adult social care have seen month on month improvements during the reporting period. Jointly attributed delays have remained stable. NHS attributed delays have seen an increase in the latest two months."

Patient tells story of his 77 years of care at hospital

Report by Sue Austin

A MAN who has spent nearly 80 years as a patient of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has shared his story in a moving account.

It includes his mother travelling hundreds of miles to get him the treatment he needed and the day an infamous fire broke out on the wards.

Donald Harrison, of Shrewsbury, was brought to the hospital from his home in London back in 1940 when he was just two years old.

Now aged 79, he is one of very few patients still alive who can recall being under the care of the hospital's illustrious founder Dame Agnes Hunt.

His story has been told as the hospital approaches the end of its Year of Celebration – marking 150 years since the birth of Agnes Hunt and 160 years since the birth of co-founder Sir Robert Jones.

Mr Harrison said: "I was born with a club foot and also deformity in my legs so my mother was advised to bring me to the orthopaedic hospital for treatment. I was only two years old at the time; however my mother always told me the story of her handing me over to Dame Agnes Hunt who was expecting our arrival."

In 1940, Dame Agnes Hunt was 74 years old and had retired from clinical work but was still playing an extremely important part in the life of the hospital, he said.

This visit resulted in Mr Harrison and his mother relocating to Shrewsbury permanently. The family lived in lodgings for around eight years before being awarded a council house.

He said: "I spent many of my childhood years at the orthopaedic and have fond memories of my time in hospital. I was a patient on Ludlow Ward in 1948 when the fire broke out and I remember not really knowing what was going on. "At the time, to us youngsters, it was very exciting being pushed down the long corridor by a nurse at a tremendous speed."

Ludlow Ward wasn't affected during the fire but all patients were evacuated to either the Park Hall Military Camp or the Derwen College.

Donald is now 79 and has had a total of 35 operations, with the majority being at the hospital.

He said: "It's great to see the advancements in medical and orthopaedic procedures, I am hugely thankful for the treatment and care I received over the years at RJAH."

Ironwork company's trophy is warmly received



Judges Marjorie Jones, Linda Jones and Delyth Jenkins with the winning Welsh cakes and Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre

A TROPHY has been given to the world champion Welsh Cake maker thanks to a Shropshire firm.

A Welsh Dragon trophy created by the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry has been presented to grandmother Bev Marsh from Tywyn, who won the title of top baker.

She was chosen after a bake-off by cooks from around the country, all bidding to take the title at the first-ever Jones Crisps World Welsh Cake Championships.

She picked up a year's supply of Jones crisps, plus £150 and the specially-made trophy.

Clive Knowles, of the British Ironwork Centre, said: "We were honoured to be asked to

supply a trophy for the first-ever Jones Crisps Welsh Cake Championships.

"Welsh dragons feature in our most popular trophies and so using one seemed most apt for this contest.

"I was able to sample entries in the two categories of traditional Welsh Cake and the alternative flavour section. They were lovely and a real reminder of home baking at its very best.

"My congratulations go out to Bev Marsh, the winner of the traditional category and overall champion Welsh Cake maker, who will be receiving our trophy for her very tasty cakes.

"I hope she will treasure the trophy and it will encourage her grandchildren to continue

the family tradition of award-winning baking." Around 20 bakers entered the contest, with entries from as far afield as Tregaron in South Wales. Welsh Cakes are known by a variety of names in different areas of Wales, such as Picaeu ar y Maen, Pice Bach, and Theisen Radell.

Geraint Hughes of Jones Crisps, who organised the contest, said: "I love Welsh Cakes and I wanted to celebrate the very best that Wales has to offer.

"I am delighted that Bev has won. We've had a wide variety of entries and it's been a real dream tasting them all – the judges have had a difficult task in choosing the winner."

AM backs call for restoration of Right to Buy

THE Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire has backed calls for the Welsh Government to support home ownership and restore the Right to Buy.

The Welsh Government's Abolition of the Right to Buy Bill seeks to remove the right of social tenants in Wales to purchase their home and a ban is expected to come into force before the 2021 Assembly election, a retrograde step according to Assembly Member, Russell George.

Some 139,000 council and housing association homes in Wales have been sold since Right to Buy was introduced in 1980 under Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government.

Mr George said: "The Abolition of the Right to Buy Bill marks a sad time for Welsh home ownership.

"The Right to Buy policy has been extremely successful across the UK, responding to the aspirations of those on lowest incomes to purchase their own home.

"The problems within the housing market have arisen due to a lack of housing supply in Wales, not because of the 300 or 400 homes that are currently being sold under the Right to Buy policy.

"I and my colleagues have consistently tried to offer sensible ideas of reform for this popular policy so that the permanent abolition could be avoided."

Students visit Lindstrand factory site

NORTH Shropshire College engineering students had the chance to experience a taste of the hot air balloon and inflatable building industry with a recent trip to local business Lindstrand Technologies.

The students were shown around the factory by David Hampson, production manager at Lindstrand, and were given an introduction to the entire process of making balloons, including, computerised cutting, material welding and stitching, prototyping and metal component machining. In addition to this, the students were also given a talk explaining the regulations that Lindstrand have to follow when making balloons and aviation equipment.

Former college engineering student Elliot Clark, who is an apprentice at Lindstrand, was also on hand to explain to the students what it is like to work at the company.

Rupert Boyle, engineering lecturer at the college, who organised the trip, said: "The visit was an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about commercial engineering and the techniques and practices involved; especially in the aviation industry.

"They thoroughly enjoyed the trip and it enabled them to bring to life what they have been learning in class up until now."

Health funding to bring boost

TWO towns, including one near Welshpool, are set to benefit from a £68 million pot being spent on 19 health and care centres.

The new investment in the Welsh health service is set to bring NHS and community services together under one roof, and will include 11 new hubs and GP centres, as well as carrying out refurbishment at existing clinics and centres.

Housing associations and councils will also be involved in the hub and the Welsh Government's health secretary has insisted the move will make a significant difference, as people can receive care closer to home.

The centres will be delivered across the seven Welsh health boards in Wales by 2021.

In Powys, a centre in Machynlleth will be re-configured and extended to create a primary and community care hub, with other plans for Llanfair Caereinion primary care centre.

Health Secretary Vaughan Gething said: "People in the 21st century expect to be treated in modern, advanced health care centres that deliver a wide range of services all under one roof.

"We agree, and by targeting investment in this way it is hoped that opportunities for delivering service change can be delivered upon."

First residents move into homes for the over 55s

THE first residents have moved into a multi-million pound development for the over 55s.

The Ashwood building, off Alexandra Road in Oswestry, is the seventh ShireLiving scheme to be developed by The Wrekin Housing Trust in partnership with Choices.

It was built on the site of the old Oswestry Borough Council depot.

It is made up of 53 apartments and eight bungalows that bring Wrekin Housing Trust's Shropshire homes to a total of 1,500, outside of Telford and Wrekin.

The complex cost £9.9 million to develop which included a homes and communities grant of £2,192,950.

Wrekin Housing Trust says it is creating much-needed homes to meet the demands of an ageing population with Ashwood with peace of mind and security to those looking for a hassle-free retirement.

New resident Rosemary Jones, 76, moved into her apartment from a nearby house and says she is already feeling the benefits.

She said: "I moved here for the company pri-

marily, as I don't like to be alone. The stairs were also starting to become an issue. When I first stepped into this apartment I knew this would be so right for me. My life has been enhanced by moving here. Everyone is really lovely and I enjoy the gardens and terrace. I have already made some good friends and we get together for coffee and to have a chat in the lounge downstairs.

"I use the restaurant most days for a bacon sandwich or light breakfast but tend to make my own dinner in my kitchen. The laundry

room has been really handy." Senior development manager for the trust, Andrea Martin said: "We are delighted to see people moving into Ashwood.

"Through our development programme we have built more than 700 brand new homes in the area over five years – 299 of these have completed or will complete this year and include 46 new homes on the former Oswestry leisure centre site, 52 new homes off Unicorn Road, Oswestry and 55 new homes at Bower Farm, St Martins."

26 Caring students do their bit to help out appeal

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, December 14, 2017

COLLEGE students in Oswestry have helped out with an annual fundraising event.

Youngsters from North Shropshire College took part in raising money for the Poppy Appeal.

The caring college students visited Oswestry town centre, at key locations outside the town's retail establishments, to sell poppies for Remembrance Day on behalf of the Royal British Legion's Oswestry Branch.

Among those helping to raise funds were Benjamin Simpson and Kira Hughes.

This year's Poppy Appeal hoped to build on the success of last years which raised £146.9 million pounds nationwide for remembrance and welfare for those in the armed forces community.

Paul Clarke, sport lecturer at North Shropshire College, who was involved with organising students to sell poppies, said: "We were delighted to support the British Legion in Oswestry this year.

"It is an excellent opportunity for the students, as well as the college to give something back to the community who support us year round."

He added: "I hope that it has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience for the students, and I would like to thank them for taking part."

Hopes remain over future of outdoor centre

AN under-threat outdoor centre in Montgomeryshire could be saved following a campaign and petition.

Staylittle Outdoor Centre which provides adventure activities for school children and organisations from across Powys and around the UK, was set to close at the end of the financial year to save Powys County Council £130,000 annually.

The news was met with anger by residents and service users, who called for the council to reverse the decision and keep the centre open.

A petition has gathered almost 5,000 signatures, after cabinet member for leisure, Councillor Rachel Powell, said despite expressions of interests and business plans, the centre did not have a secure future.

However, the council has announced that the local authority was re-considering its options. Cabinet member for property, Councillor Phyl Davies said further investigations will take place to give the centre a "viable future".

He said: "The council will continue investigating all avenues to ensure the centre has a viable and sustainable future. Discussions are already taking places within different services areas and we will take those discussions further afield to give the centre the best possible future."

Calendar will aid work of charity

A CHARITY which helps the elderly has launched a new calendar to raise funds for its work.

Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin is selling the 'Shropshire Scenes' calendar, to raise money to support older people in Shropshire.

The calendar is made up of photographs of the county reflecting the different seasons. From a wintry scene of Caer Caradoc in the south of the county, to Ellesmere in the spring with daffodils by the Mere, and summer in Bridgnorth, the calendar features some of Shropshire's most attractive spots.

The photographs have been donated to Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin by local photographers and Shropshire Tourism.

Heather Osborne, chief executive of Age UK STW, said the funds raised from the calendar could help to make a big difference towards its work.

The charity calendar, which costs £6, and Christmas cards are on sale at the Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin offices in Shrewsbury and Telford and at the charity furniture shops in Shrewsbury, Wellington and Oswestry. Alternatively people can order them from www.ageuksroshshireandtelford.org.uk or call (01743) 233123.

Increase in reports of historic sexual abuse 'demonstrates victims' trust in police force'

By Lisa O'Brien

A STEEP rise in historic child sex abuse reports is down to an improvement in recording crime and people's confidence in coming forward, Dyfed-Powys Police has said.

New figures show that reports of non-recent sexual abuse against children – where the offence is alleged to have occurred more than a year before it was reported to police – have increased in the last four years.

Dyfed-Powys Police recorded 569 cases between April 2013 and March 2017 and the number rose from 96 in 2013/14 to 152 in 2016/17.

The statistics were obtained by the NSPCC through a freedom of information request.

The children's charity believes the rise could be down to high-profile abuse cases and the football abuse scandal which began a year ago,

and has seen its helpline receive more than 2,500 calls.

Detective Superintendent Anthony Griffiths, of Dyfed-Powys Police, said: "We welcome the increase in reports as a positive indication that victims feel they are able to report to Dyfed-Powys Police, knowing they will be listened to and taken seriously."

"The improvement in crime recording and victims' improved confidence in how the police will deal with abuse have also played a significant part in the increase in reports to us."

"Increase in reports in the recent years could also be linked to the research which demon-

strates many victims wait until adulthood before telling someone that they have been sexually abused."

"We will do all we can to support victims and survivors coming forward."

"It is vital that everyone who has contact with children or young people know the signs of abuse and shares any concerns, however small, with police or other agencies that can help."

Reports to West Mercia Police also increased from 317 in 2013/14 to 699 in 2016/17, with 2,176 reports made in the last four years.

The NSPCC is encouraging people who need advice about reporting abuse they suffered in the past to contact its helpline, or if they are under 18 to go to Childline.

The figures were obtained by the NSPCC

following a freedom of information request to police forces in England and Wales and British Transport Police.

Figures were also provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Police forces across the UK recorded more than 60,000 cases, with the number increasing from 10,493 in 2013/14 to 20,410 in 2016/17.

The NSPCC says the true amount is likely to be higher still, with six UK police forces not providing full figures for all four years.

Anyone who has been a victim is urged to report it to police on 101 or contact the NSPCC helpline on 0800 800 5000 for advice and support.

Children can contact Childline on 0800 1111 or at childline.org.uk

Report by Dominic Robertson

THE future of the county's seven main libraries is secure but Shropshire Council can not guarantee the prospects of 14 smaller ones, it has been revealed.

A proposed new library strategy safeguards the future of 'tier one' libraries at Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Market Drayton, Whitechurch, Ludlow, and Bridgnorth.

However, the proposal includes plans for smaller libraries, including Gobowen Library, to move towards a "cost neutral" position, where they would not require any council funding.

The plan aims for 'tier two' libraries at Cleobury Mortimer, Church Stretton, Bishop's Castle, Ellesmere, Pontesbury, Albrighton, and Wem to become cost neutral by the end of 2022/23, and for 'tier three' libraries at Broseley, Shifnal, Highley, Craven Arms, Much Wenlock, Gobowen, and Bayston Hill, to be cost neutral by 2020/21.

The council says it is too far in advance to confirm what will happen if the libraries are unable to support themselves by the time they reach the date.

A spokesperson said: "It would be premature to comment on this outcome this far in advance, as we have time to work alongside local communities to ensure the long term future of our libraries across the county."

A paper outlining the proposals insists there are no plans to close the sites, which would be a "last resort" decision after public consultation.

It states: "In setting out a hierarchy of library services provision it is important to emphasise that there are no proposals to close tier three community libraries – i.e. Broseley, Shifnal, Highley, Craven Arms, Much Wenlock, Gobowen, and Bayston Hill.

"The council will continue to work with a broad range of local partners to try to find sustainable solutions to the long-term management of all of its libraries. Within these arrangements, the council will continue to provide freely a full range of "back office" support to local organisations."

Under the plans 281 mobile library stops will be provided, down from 354 currently, and there will be a focus on digital library services.

The council's library strategy for 2018 to 2023 had been scheduled to be discussed at the meeting of the authority's cabinet last week.

However, the item was postponed and is now likely to be considered in the New Year.

Rally's visit to Powys 'was a huge success'



Rally fans had a chance to get a close-up look at the cars at a stop in Newtown during the sports event when it visited Powys

THE recent 2017 Dayinsure Wales Rally GB which once again came to the streets of Powys has been deemed another success.

It started with a spectacular new opening, staged under the floodlights at Tir Prince Raceway, and climaxed with M-Sport, Ogier, Ingrassia and Evans all celebrating their successes on a packed Mostyn Street in Llandudno.

In between, the classic Welsh stages witnessed three-days of compelling action watched by more than 100,000 visitors – the biggest crowd since the rally's move to Wales in 2013 – with visits to historic Chester city centre and the Toyota RallyFest at Cholmondeley bringing the sport closer to even wider audiences.

"We could not have dreamed of a more perfect weekend," admitted Ben Taylor, managing director of Dayinsure Wales Rally GB.

"Great weather, huge crowds, world champions, British success and, right at the top, Elfyn Evans, the first ever Welsh driver to win this event. You could hardly have scripted all of that."

"It was a wonderful showcase for Wales as a destination, beaming stunning images and amazing landscapes to more than 60 million people around the globe. We must thank the Welsh Government, our principal funding partner, for its long-standing enthusiasm and support, as well as all our other partners and

sponsors. Then there's the 2,000 volunteer marshals without whom the rally simply could not happen and, of course, the fans who turned up in record numbers to create a memorable atmosphere."

"With so many epic storylines, this year's Dayinsure Wales Rally GB is going to be tough to emulate."

"Even so, we are already planning ahead and looking forward to staging an even bigger and better event next October."

The Welsh Government's proactive support for the UK's round of the FIA World Rally Championship brings more than £8 million of economic benefit to the region, organisers said.

£40 million investment for special needs school

A SCHOOL for special needs children in Mid Wales is set to undergo a £40 million investment to provide a state of the art campus.

The investment at Ysgol Cedewain in Newtown is part of a huge £113 million project by Powys County Council to improve educational facilities across the county.

Around £40 million has been included in the programme for the school, which has 110 pupils aged two to 19 who have a range of additional learning needs that require specialist teaching, care, support facilities and equipment.

Concern has been expressed at condition of the existing school buildings and the need for investment to provide improved facilities for the vulnerable pupils.

Cabinet member for schools, Councillor Myfanwy Alexander said: "Funding from the Welsh Government programme is available from April 2019 until 2024, therefore we want this scheme to be ready to go as soon as possible in 2019."

Approval of the building programme by the Welsh Government's cabinet secretary for edu-

cation, Kirsty Williams, means the council can make progress with the scheme, building on early feasibility work that has already taken place.

The work will involve working closely with the school community and other stakeholders in the area to shape the business case and develop the detail for the scheme, including the design requirements, identifying the need for any multi-agency and community facilities, and the actual construction timescales.

It is currently unknown if the new state of

the art facility will be on the current Cedewain site near Plantation Lane. Brynllwarch Hall School in Kerry is also being looked at for investment.

Graham Owen, chair of governors at Ysgol Cedewain added: "The Governing Body is very pleased that, after many years of campaigning for a new school in view of the dilapidated condition of the current buildings, Powys County Council is intending to provide a new school and much improved facilities for some of the most vulnerable pupils in Powys."



Minimalist stems at Christmas



This little tiddler will look good in a small room

No room for a proper tree at Christmastime?

By Hannah Stephenson

STRUGGLING to squeeze in a Christmas tree that's too tall and wide for the space in your home, leaving you reaching for the secateurs in an effort to cut it down to size?

Bigger the better might seem like a good approach when it comes to choosing a Christmas tree, but squashed-in probably isn't the look you're really hoping for, so it's far better to give a little thought to what size and style of tree is going to be best.

Here, David Mitchell, Christmas tree expert and buying manager for horticulture at Wyevale Garden Centres (weyvalgarden-centres.co.uk), talks us through six things to consider when choosing your tree...

1. How tall should you go?

The first thing you need to consider is ceiling height, says David Mitchell, Christmas tree expert and buying manager for horticulture at Wyevale Garden Centres.

"A lot of people have no idea how tall their ceiling is, and when you imagine a tree in a certain space, it's easy to get over-ambitious as to what you can fit in there," he says. "You also have to remember that the stand is going to add perhaps another six inches to the overall height of the tree, and quite often you find that you are having to cut the top off, or something that compromises the shape of the tree. So measure the tree and make allowances for the stand."

2. How wide can it really be?

"A lot of the trees are coming through very wide. The Nordmann, by its very nature, is a wide variety with a wide skirt around the base. We've been doing pruning work in the fields to help keep it within certain limits," says David.

"A lot of people want something that's big, bushy and deluxe, but as a general trend, we do want them slimmer and we try to accommodate that."

3. What style of tree is it?

If your space is very restricted and you want an extremely slim tree, Wyevale offers a Swedish style Nordmann, which costs slightly less than a traditional Nordmann – but there won't be as many of them and they sell out first.

"Back in 2014, we recognised there was very much a trend for artificial trees at that time that were very stripped out and minimalist, following a Scandinavian approach, where you could see the light coming through between the branches."

"We decided to do a version of that with our living trees, so we were selecting trees which had that layered effect, and prune in the field to get that shape and layered effect."

Alternatively, the Fraser fir has a much more narrow profile, which has a more columnar figure and upright habit, with



Swedish-style Christmas tree from Wyevale Garden Centres

branches sweeping upwards rather than downwards.

4. What sort of scent are you after?

For many people, the fragrances of the festive season are part of the appeal, so think about whether you want your tree to be scented.

"You also have to consider whether you want something highly scented, which might steer you towards a Fraser fir. You can get artificial scents to put in the tree, but there's nothing like the real thing," notes David.

5. Avoid clipping catastrophes

If you are going to attempt to trim back your own tree, there are rules about pruning.

"Ultimately, you have to cut where is necessary to make it fit the space, but there's a

tidy way of doing it," says David. "If you cut any given branch half way down its length fairly unceremoniously, then it's going to look as if it's been cut off."

"If you cut it in between the nodes, taking off individual 'fingers' of the tree, or find a natural break, that's always going to look better than if you cut it half way down. I wouldn't just take shears to it and cut it off. Look for a natural join. There's no risk of damaging the tree but because it's such a centrepiece, it's worth spending a bit of time on it and pruning with a bit of finesse."

If the only spot for your tree is by a radiator, you have to accept that it's going to dry out. This means it will need more water and you're likely to see a fair bit of needle-drop.

6. Consider some alternatives

If you simply don't have room for a proper tree, there are other alternatives,



A narrow tree will save space



Twiggy alternative to a larger tree

such as long dogwood-style twigs or other branches which you could put in a vase and decorate with baubles to give the room a festive air. Many garden centres also sell artificial thin trees which are almost like a standard, just with branches on the upper third of the tree.

"There are a lot of artificial trees which have that stark white Betula jacquemontii (silver birch) look," says David. "It gives that stripped out, minimalist effect. A real one in a pot would be OK indoors for a couple of weeks in December. You can decorate it and dress it up."

"I'm very much coming over to the notion of having a Christmas tree outside as well, because some of the Christmas lights are very well suited to indoor or outdoor use, and they can be solar powered, so you can have a set of lights."

Keeping your children and data safe at Christmas

By Steve Wood, ICO Deputy Commissioner

IN an increasingly digital world, more and more toys and devices aimed at children now have internet-connected technology. As the Christmas shopping season begins, many parents will be considering buying them for their children.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) supports innovation and creative uses of personal data, but this cannot be at the expense of people's privacy and legal rights, whatever their age. Concerns have been raised in recent months that the growth in toys containing sensors, microphones, cameras, data storage and other multi-media capabilities could put the privacy and safety of children at risk.

There have also been data protection concerns relating to some products over what data is collected, by whom, where it is stored and how it is secured.

The ICO wants parents, guardians and others to consider data protection and privacy issues in the same way they would check on the safety of presents they are planning to give to their children.

Unlike Santa, those looking to hack into your devices don't care whether you've been naughty or nice, so the ICO has the following advice for grown-ups considering buying smart toys and devices this Christmas:

1: Research the security of a product before buying

Doing your homework before buying a connected device should allow you to recognise those with poor security. You should also look to see how a product will be updated in the future if a security issue is identified.

2: Take care when shopping online

At this time of year, when online shopping is nearing its peak, scammers may be more likely to try to access your personal information such as bank account or credit card details. Only use secure sites when shopping online – secure sites usually carry the padlock symbol.

3. Take your time

Don't wait until Christmas Day, when excited children will want to just turn on a new toy or device and skip as much of the set-up process as they can. Take the time beforehand to read the manual and familiarise yourself with the security and privacy options available to you.

4. Change passwords and usernames from default

Default password or code protection will only provide the most basic security. Default credentials for many devices can be freely available on the web. Use a different password for each account and device.

5. Is your router secure?

Your router is the first line of defence on the perimeter of your home network. If you have devices connected to your network, the default settings of your router might be exposing them to the internet and therefore everyone else. Create a strong password.

6. If there's a two-step

identification option – use it

Two-step authentication offers you an additional layer of security when logging in to an online service.

7. Be camera aware – you never know who's

watching

Some toys and devices are fitted with web cameras. The ability to view footage remotely is both their biggest selling point and, if not set up correctly, potentially their biggest weakness.

8: Location, location, location

One of the main selling points of children's smart watches is the ability for parents to know where their children are at all times. However, if this isn't done securely, then others might have access to this data as well. Immediately get rid of default location tracking and GPS settings.

9: Bluetooth ache

Some toys and devices have been found to have unencrypted Bluetooth connections which can be easily accessed by strangers. Consider disabling this in a device's settings.

10: Have a secure Christmas

By taking some time and care beforehand and following our advice, you can still see a child's face light up when they open their new, web-connected Christmas present, safe, secure and happy.



Time to stop picking on these canny scavengers

NOVEMBER is a month for many things in the natural world – the last of the autumn colours, hard frosts, migrating salmon, winter tightening its grip and so on. But it may perhaps be best described as a month for corvids.

Why so?

Corvids – the crows, rooks, jackdaws, magpies, jays and happily, in my neck of the woods at any rate, ravens – can often be among the most successful of winter birds for their food source is rarely in scarce supply.

With winter just around the corner, many animals, especially mammals, begin to struggle. Their lifeless bodies become ever more accessible to these canny scavengers and all the aforementioned are doing pretty well out of it.

However there always seems to be a large dollop of controversy attached to these species. I can never really understand why. The obvious reason for some to despise species such as jays and magpies is their penchant for eggs and fledgling birds. But of course they only do this in the spring when they are desperately trying to feed their own young in turn.

Let's look at the facts. It's true to say that magpie numbers alone have quadrupled in the last half century. This sounds like a veritable plague when it comes to nest-raiders and fledgling-killers but almost every study on the subject has shown that the effect magpies have on songbird numbers is minimal and negligible.

Then let's look at why corvids in general and magpies especially, have prospered. One of the main reasons is the amount of road kill available. We also enjoy attracting songbirds to our gardens and install nest

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



boxes for that purpose. These are hardly discreet and must look like a series of shop windows to magpies and their ilk.

The domestic cat plays a far, far larger part on the demise of songbirds than the occasional magpie. As usual, we are quick to blame others without looking at our own species.

Jackdaws, rooks and crows spend many days now probing the ground, often sodden with rain.

Any number of beetle grubs, crane-fly larvae and worms and the like are forced to the surface in damp weather and it is a bounty for the larger scavengers.

Autumn is of course associated with acorns and thousands litter the areas beneath oak trees now. These are a favourite food of the jay which secretes them in holes both above and below ground.

Forgotten

It's the below-ground ones that the oak tree is relying on and these are often forgotten about, left to grow into might oaks, or at least seedlings until they are eaten by cows or cut in half by hedge trimmers.

Now that the leaves are all but gone, the rookery will be easy to spot. The rooks tend to return here both to nest next spring but also simply to roost each night. Like some of our smaller species (robins, for example) rooks with have an eye to maintaining next year's quarters and roost in or near to their old nest.

Above all else, the antics of corvids can be enthralling to watch; whether ravens



Jay study in colour – by Ben Waddams

wheeling on the thermals or a probing party of jackdaws, the beauty of a jay's plumage or the drama of the rookery. It seems a

shame that some chose to denigrate these species, when really they should be admired with all the others.

Competition winners in trip to firm

NINETEEN Year 6 Primary School pupils from Oswestry and the surrounding areas were recently selected as competition winners to visit AO Expert Logistics, as part of The Marches School 'Futures Award'.

The competition, organised by The Marches Academy Trust in association with one of the UK's largest electrical distribution companies, was designed to ignite the aspirations of Year 6 pupils.

The overall winners were selected to spend a unique behind the scenes visit at AO Logistics Distribution Centre in Crewe.

During the day, pupils were fascinated to hear about the history and successful growth of the company, which celebrates over 30 years of experience in delivering white goods.

The pupils tried on uniforms, enjoyed a tour around the offices and took part in a task in their 360,000sq.ft warehouse witnessing first-hand the order processing and distribution of electrical goods.

The Futures Award aims to encourage pupils to begin thinking about their ambitions for the future and to be inspired by the possibilities available to them.

Competition winners included Year 6 children from Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Our Ladies and St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, The Meadows Primary School, Trefonen C of E Primary School, Whittington C of E Primary School and Woodside Primary School.

Michael Kemble, English teacher at The Marches School, said: "The response to the competition and standard of entries has been outstanding."

"We have been very fortunate to be working with AO Logistics in arranging this unique experience which has definitely ignited the aspirations of the pupils as well as supporting their transition to Year 7."

The winners of the competition included Megan Evans, Freya MacDonald, Charlie Richards, Monty Holmes, Carrie-Ann George, Daniel Hodgson, Felicity Davies and Georgina Brown.

The winning pieces of work were submitted to the school and judged by headteacher Alison Pearson.

Entries were judged against a set of criteria and the top students selected to take part in the trip to AO Expert Logistics.

STAND OUT FROM YOUR RIVALS

Advertise your business on the **NEW LOOK** Shropshire Star website
www.shropshirestar.com

MNA DIGITAL



To find out how you can benefit call
MNA Digital on 01902 319730

The Ricket

**OH WHAT A NIGHT!
IT'S JERSEY BOYS
INSIDE**

YOUR WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

The Ricket

To advertise in this space call Bev Thompson on 01691 668092



**To advertise in
this space**
please call
Beverley Thompson
01691 668092

They're just too good to be true!

Oh what a night! The internationally acclaimed stage sensation, *Jersey Boys*, is working its way back to Birmingham with a festive run at the city's **New Alexandra Theatre**.

The hit musical has won 57 major awards, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical, and will be on from tomorrow until January 6.

Jersey Boys tells the true life story of four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who wrote their own songs, invented their own unique sound, and sold 100 million records worldwide as Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Featuring hit after legendary hit including *Beggin'*, *December 1963* (Oh What A Night), *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*, *Walk Like A Man*, *Bye Bye Baby*, *Big Girls Don't Cry* and many more, *Jersey Boys* is a story full of heart, humour and sheer musical razzmatazz.

The show features a starry cast of West End actors, including Simon Bailey who stars as Tommy DeVito.

Simon has carved out an impressive career after starring in *Bat Boy*, *Marry Me A Little*, *I Can't Sing!* *The X-Factor Musical*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Parade*, *Passion*, *Les Miserables* and *Joseph*.

He was present when *Jersey Boys* began its nine-year run in London and went to the first night. "I didn't know about the music at first. But I went to the first night and within four minutes I knew I had to do it. I've bided my time until the part became available."

"To be honest with you, the show is so well written and so slick. The story is fast-paced and intelligently written. Essentially, you get the same story – the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons – told by four different people. Seeing everyone's individual take on what happened is great because everyone gets to tell their side of the story. The way that the music comes in is brilliant. It's so fast-paced. You kind of forget you're watching something. It's seamless and faultless."

IDENTIFY

Simon loves shows that give fans the maximum value for money.

"You are fully entertained for two-and-a-half hours. You just want to watch it again and again and again," he says.

"I saw it 8 or 10 times and I became a fan of the show before I got to be in it."

The present tour features Michael Watson as Frankie Valli, Simon as Tommy De Vito, Declan Egan as Bob Gaudio and Lewis Griffiths as Nick Massi. All four have previously performed their roles in *Jersey Boys* to great acclaim: Michael and Simon in the West End, Declan in the West End and Australia, and Lewis in the first UK and Ireland tour.

Simon was delighted to be cast as De Vito. "Tommy is great. The thing I loved about it is that you need to find something you can identify with. I always identified with his desire to succeed. While I may not agree with him methods – but they make him fun to play – I respect and admire his desire to succeed. If you are growing up where they grew up, you either went into the army and die, go into the mob and die or be a star and don't die. Being in a band got him out of the wrong place. He did what he had to do. He discovered Frankie and it all came together. Tommy was the catalyst."

Simon spends most of his time in London's West End but was thrilled to be given a chance to get back on the road. "This is my third tour. I did the *Phantom of the Opera* 25th anniversary back in 2012 and I did something at the start of my career," he says. "I've always enjoyed travel, internationally and nationally, so being on the road is great. Leaving London for a while is no bad thing, it refreshes you. I love the energy the audiences bring. We are in for a couple of weeks at a time and the audiences want to enjoy it."

Simon says the days of getting great shows in the West End and second tier shows in the provinces are long gone. These days, there's no difference in quality. Fans at

Walk like a man – *Jersey Boys* will appear at the New Alex



To be honest, the show is so well written and so slick

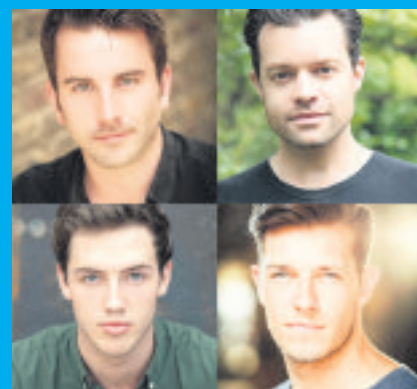
Birmingham can look forward to a first class show.

"You get the great shows in the provinces these days. That dividing line between the West End and the rest of the UK is obsolete."

"I grew up going to the West End. I was very, very lucky. My parents were very much into the theatre. I was one of the lucky ones who went to see West End theatre from a very early age. One of the first things I ever saw was *Joseph* at the palladium with Jason Donovan. I will never forget the feeling of being in the theatre and it was so big and wonderful and magical. I was watching this whole brand new life and story on stage. It kind of blew my mind. I did a show at the Palladium a couple of years ago called *I Can't Sing*. I remember walking out on stage and seeing the seat I was sat in all those years before. It made me feel like a very lucky human being. Now I have the ability to transport other people and that's a real privilege."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see **The Ticket** in your **Shropshire Star** every Friday.



Talented Jemima enjoys more success

Rising musical talent, Jemima Pickersgill, 17, from Moreton Hall Girls School near Oswestry has successfully attained a top qualification.

Jemima endured a nervous three-month wait to hear if she had been successful in attaining a Dip ABRSM, following an intense hour-long examination.

The tasks included compiling a balanced 35 minute recital programme, talking with confidence about the music as part of a viva voce, and putting on the best possible performance on the day.

Jemima has been playing the clarinet for eight years now, taking it up as an enthusiastic nine year old, and never

imagining the heights she would climb to.

Over her career, Jemima has performed alongside many nationally and internationally acclaimed stars such as the conductor of the Junior Royal Northern Symphony Orchestra, Ewa Strusinska, an internationally acclaimed musical director and conductor.

Jemima said: "I really enjoyed the application process, it was unlike anything I've experienced before and I definitely learnt a lot from it. I'm really thrilled that I achieved such a strong pass, it's a really tough thing to do."

Helen Rayner, director of music at Moreton Hall, said: "We are all incredibly proud of Jemima's achievement. It's

testament to her hard work, commitment and love of music."

Jemima is now preparing her application for Conservatoires and Music Colleges as well as appearing as a soloist in various school and college performances before Christmas.

Jemima plays first clarinet in the Junior Royal Northern College of Music Symphony Orchestra and plays the bass clarinet in the National Youth Wind Orchestra.

Moreton Hall has recently become home of North Shropshire Music: an exciting initiative offering musicianship opportunities for all ages and abilities in North Shropshire and the Welsh Borders.



Coming soon...

Time to rock and roll at panto

Music is taking centre stage with a production of Sleeping Beauty – The Rock 'N' Roll Panto.

The panto opened at Theatr Clwyd, Mold, and runs until January 20.

Written by Peter Rowe, Sleeping Beauty features more than 16 rock, pop and soul songs played live by a company of actor-musicians led by Nurse Tabetha Trott, played by panto favourite Sean McKenzie. Sean, who has starred in some of the biggest shows in the West End, made his Theatr Clwyd debut last year in Aladdin. His recent shows include the National Theatre production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, Alan Bennett's Lady in the Van and the international tour of War Horse.

On TV he starred in Vera, Downton Abbey and Shameless. His films include 24 Hour Party People.

He is joined by Theatr Clwyd panto stars Rowan Talbot, and Luke Thornton at well as Britain's Got Talent finalist James Ifan, a panto newcomer, and David Heywood, Emmy Stonelake, and Zoe West.

Welsh TV favourite Lynwen Haf Roberts takes to the stage along with Elan West and multi-instrumentalist Greg Coulson, a member until recently of the legendary two-tone band The Selecter.

Director, Zoë Waterman, said Sleeping Beauty is suitable for everyone from five to 95.



Festive visitors can go back to Victorian times

Visitors are set to travel back 100 years to celebrate Christmas the Victorian way at a Shropshire attraction. Blists Hill Victorian Town will be holding a festive weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

People will be able to soak up the atmosphere with seasonal entertainment and activities and watch as the townsfolk busily make preparations for Christmas, 1800s style, listen to brass bands, tour the town on a horse-drawn cart, meet Father Christmas and his reindeer and enjoy delicious festive food and drink.

They can also step in from the cold and warm up by the fireside in the traditionally decorated shops and cosy cottages.

A perfect Victorian 'Christmas card scene', with a stunningly decorated Christmas tree, will be the centrepiece in the Goods Shed, where youngsters can write a letter to Father Christmas and leave a note on the Wishing Tree.

Richard Aldred, of Ironbridge Gorge Museums, said: "A visit is also a great excuse to call in to the shops around the town, where people will find some unusual Christmas gifts like traditionally made cast-iron paperweights and doorstops, handmade plaster decorations, perfumed soaps, hand printed gift wrap, traditional sweets and Victorian style Christmas cards."

One of the ten Ironbridge Gorge Museums in Shropshire, Blists Hill will be open from 10am to 4pm on the Victorian Christmas weekend.

Entry is £17.95 for adults, £13.75 for 60 plus, £11.85 for children five to 16 years.

A special Christmas family ticket for two adults and two children is available at £55 and under fives are free.

A visit to Father Christmas is £3.50 extra per child

Head back to the time of the Victorians at Christmas



including a gift to take home. Print-at-home tickets can be purchased online or you can pay at the gate on arrival. Annual passports are not valid for these weekends but current passport holders will receive a 25 per cent

discount on presentation of a valid annual passport ticket when paying on arrival. For further information, call the Ironbridge Tourist Information Centre on 01952 433 424 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

Pioneering Roger back on tour

Roger Waters has announced that his pioneering 'Us + Them' tour will visit the UK next year. Roger Waters is set to play across the country, including a night at Arena Birmingham on July 7, when his critically-acclaimed show comes to Europe in summer 2018.

Us + Them, which is currently touring North America has garnered rave reviews – with the setlist called "spectacular" and the production referred to as "eye-popping."

The show features songs from Pink Floyd's greatest albums such as The Dark Side of the Moon, The Wall, Animals, Wish You Were Here plus some new songs from his best-selling album "Is This the Life We Really Want?".

Roger Waters – Us + Them will tour Europe and showcase highlights from Waters' groundbreaking body of work. The title is derived from the 1974 track "Us And Them," from the multi-million selling Pink Floyd album The Dark Side of the Moon. His legendary live performances are renowned as immersive sensory experiences featuring high class, state-of-the-art audio visual production and breathtaking quad sound. This new tour promises to be no exception, following months of meticulous planning and visionary craft, it will inspire crowds with its powerful delivery to take the audience on a musical journey. Roger Waters – Us + Them marks Waters' first return to Europe since The Wall Live (2010-2013).



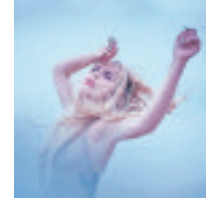
Paloma fans in for a treat

Oswestry and Welshpool fans of Paloma Faith will have a chance to see their idol in the spring when she performs in Birmingham. She will perform at the Genting Arena on March 21.

The singer – one of only two British female artists this decade to have their last three albums go double platinum in the UK – released her long-awaited fourth album, 'The Architect', on November 17 via RCA Records.

The new album – her first in more than three years and since giving birth to her first child – features an array of acclaimed co-writers, producers and collaborators including: Sia, John Legend, Jesse Shatkin, TMS, Starsmith, Tobias Jesso Jr., Eg White, Rag'n'Bone Man, actor Samuel L. Jackson and journalist and activist Owen Jones.

Paloma, who won the BRIT Award for British Female Solo Artist in 2015 following the phenomenal success of her last record, 2014's 'A Perfect Contradiction', explores both personal and political themes on the album.



* A FUNDRAISING evening in memory of a popular primary school teacher will be held in the new year. The Never Stop Looking Up evening at the Townhouse in Oswestry will be held on January 27, 10 years after the death of Ruth Jackson. It has been organised by her family to raise money for Shropshire's Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal. Daughter Carly Jackson said: "The night will mark 10 years to the date since our beloved mother, Ruth Jackson became a shining star in the sky. Anyone who knew Ruth will know that she loved singing and dancing, so what better way to celebrate her life than doing just that." She said the evening will have a 1950s influence with cocktails, canapes, jazz and a casino while at the

NOTICE BOARD

same time raising important funds for a very special charity. Anyone interested should email carly@townhouseoswestry.com or call (01691) 659499, to reserve tickets priced £25. Lingen Davies Cancer Fund is Committed to supporting cancer services for the people of Shropshire, Telford and Mid Wales. Started in 1979 by Bernard Lingen, then Mayor of Shrewsbury, and local accountant Frank Davies, the charity has contributed around £18 million in today's prices to improve cancer services in the local area.

* AN art gallery is calling for entries for its open exhibition. Newtown's Oriol Davies Open exhibition (ODO) has a long-standing reputation for having showcased work by some of the most exciting emerging and established artists from across the UK. The gallery is inviting professional artists and those studying art to submit entries of recent work in order to be considered for the exhibition taking place from June 23 to September 5, 2018. ODO18 has no theme or geographical restrictions, and the overall prize winner will get £1,000 and a solo show in 2019. The student prize winner will receive £500 and the people's choice prize winner will win £250. The selection panel will include

art critic, writer, broadcaster and artist Matthew Collings, and art critic and curator Sacha Craddock. The deadline for submissions will at 5pm on Monday, February 12, and full details and entry forms can be found at www.orioldavies.org/en/open2018. For more information e-mail open2018@orioldavies.org or 01686 625041.

* CONCERT goers have the chance to enjoy a symphony orchestra close to the Shropshire border next year. The Wrexham Symphony Orchestra has launched its concert programme for the 49th concert season with concerts being performed at the William Aston Hall at Glyndwr University. A gala celebration concert takes place on February 24.

December 16



Match of the Day
10.20pm
Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal v Newcastle United at the Emirates Stadium.



Talking Pictures: Roger Moore
5.05pm
A profile of the actor, who found fame as Simon Templar in the ITV spy thriller series The Saint, before entering cinematic history as James Bond in seven successive 007 films.



Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs
5.35pm
Paul helps to train an over-excited beagle, and also meets a toy poodle and a pug that came in as a pair but might be better off finding new homes separately.



The World's Most Expensive Presents
8pm
There's a look at the dog owner who wants to impress guests at a glitzy party, so they dress their pet in a £40,000 ball gown.



Football on 5: The Championship
9pm
Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Hull City, and Birmingham City v Queens Park Rangers.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Tom Fletcher joins host Matt Tebbutt in the kitchen this weekend to sample dishes prepared by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Francesco Mazzei. Jane Parkinson picks the wines.
11.30	Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas. Part one of two. Nigel creates a selection of festive dishes. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea v Southampton in the Premier League.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Sports Personality of the Year 2017 – The Contenders. A look at the nominees for this year's award, which will see a number of hopefuls in contention to have their name added to the list of winners following a public vote. (R)
2.15	Bargain Hunt. Charlie Ross presents a double edition of the antiques hunting show from the East of England Showground in Peterborough, and finds time to visit Blakesley Hall in Birmingham. (R)
3.15	Escape to the Country. Jonnie Irwin goes house-hunting with two brothers, one of whom is hoping to buy a country home in Oxfordshire on a budget of £675,000. Plus, a look at Victorian pleasure boating. (R)
4.00	Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
5.25	BBC News.
5.35	Midlands Today; Weather.
5.40	Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Sports Personality of the Year special of the general knowledge quiz, with Jayne Torvill, Paula Radcliffe and Greg Rusedski. (R)
6.30	Strictly Come Dancing – The Final. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the live grand final, with the final three celebrities and their partners taking to the stage for a chance to claim the glitterball trophy.
9.00	Michael McIntyre's Big Show. Irish singer Niall Horan and comedian Jason Manford perform on stage, and comedy actress Miranda Hart risks handing her phone over to Michael in Celebrity Send-to-All.
10.00	BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal v Newcastle United.
11.45	The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game, plus a look at the major stories shaping the NFL world.
12.15	FILM: Surviving Christmas (2004). A lonely millionaire hires a family to help him enjoy the perfect Christmas, but the plan goes horribly wrong. Comedy, with Ben Affleck, Christina Applegate and James Gandolfini.
1.40	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.45	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.15	Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. With Fatima Whitbread. (R)
7.00	Nature's Wildest Events. A village invaded by billions of tiny crabs. (R)
7.30	Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. A furry bird that cannot fly.
8.00	Deadly 60. Creatures that failed to make Steve Backshall's list. (R)
8.30	Show Me What You're Made Of: UK. The kids work in an enormous shoe factory in Wigan.
9.00	Saturday Mash-Up! Yasmin Evans, Jonny Nelson and Hacker T Dog host a live Christmas party, welcoming a selection of celebrity guests to the studio. Plus, the Push Off Champion for 2017 is announced. Includes episodes of Scream Street and Odd Squad.
11.00	Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves. Part two of two. The transportation of saltwater crocodiles and wolves. (R)
12.00	Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. The chef gives a masterclass in frying. (R)
12.30	Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. The chef demonstrates special recipes for the weekend. (R)
1.00	Homes Under the Hammer. Properties for auction in Port Talbot, Wimbeldon and Telford. (R)
1.45	Coast. Stories related to the sea. (R)
2.20	Garden Rescue. A wildlife-friendly garden in Devizes, Wiltshire. (R)
2.50	Mastermind. Specialist subjects include the Harry Potter novels and Rosalind Franklin. (R)
3.20	FILM: Possessed (1947). Psychological thriller, starring Joan Crawford.
5.05	Talking Pictures: Roger Moore. A profile of the former James Bond actor.
6.05	FILM: Escape to Athena (1979). Allied POWs on a Greek island plan to defy the SS with the help of a liberal-minded camp commandant. Second World War adventure, starring Roger Moore, David Niven and Telly Savalas.
8.00	Attenborough's Life That Glows. David Attenborough explores the world of bioluminescence, the often spectacular natural light produced by creatures including glow-worms, fireflies and plankton. (R)
9.00	Feud: Bette and Joan. New series. Drama exploring the rivalry between Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, beginning in 1962, as Joan considers a collaboration. Starring Jessica Lange and Susan Sarandon.
9.55	Feud: Bette and Joan. Filming begins on What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?, and despite still being at odds, Bette and Joan unite as they campaign to get rid of an attractive female co-star.
10.45	QI XL. Bill Bailey, Katherine Ryan and Rhod Gilbert join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig for an extended look at "Operations".
11.30	Jeff Lynne's ELO – Wembley or Bust. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Jeff Lynne returns to the UK for a special concert at Wembley Stadium, alongside his celebrated musical ensemble.
12.45	FILM: Shadow of the Vampire (2000). A silent movie director hires a real vampire to star in his adaptation of Dracula, and offers him the leading lady's blood as payment. Horror, with Willem Dafoe and John Malkovich.
2.10	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Mission Employable 7.05 Oddbods 7.10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.50	Scrambled!: Fangbone. Dibby steals the Toe of Evil to turn himself into a real robot. (R)
8.10	Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R)
8.30	Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. International Rescue tries to intervene as the Mechanic aims to destroy The Hood.
9.00	Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	Saturday Morning with James Martin. With guests Adam Woodyatt and Paul Rankin.
11.20	Gino's Italian Coastal Escape. Gino travels around the rugged and wild region that is Calabria. (R)
11.50	Countrywise. Making charcoal in the Lake District. (R)
12.20	Thunderbirds Are Go. International Rescue tries to intervene as the Mechanic aims to destroy The Hood. (R)
12.45	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.55	Endeavour. The detective is suspended from duty, but when a body is found near his home, he conducts a secret investigation, and uncovers dark secrets in Oxford's social elite. (R)
2.55	FILM: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000). Family comedy prequel, starring Mark Addy.
4.35	The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
5.35	Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul helps to train an over-excited beagle. Last in the series. (R)
6.05	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.15	ITV News and Weather.
6.30	FILM: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012). Unassuming hobbit Bilbo Baggins is recruited to join a band of dwarves on a quest to reclaim their lost homeland. Fantasy adventure, with Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen.
9.45	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.00	FILM: The Hangover (2009). Three men on a stag weekend in Las Vegas wake up to find they have lost the groom and cannot remember the night before. Comedy, with Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis.
11.55	Tonight at the London Palladium. Bradley Walsh welcomes ABC, Nathan Sykes, the West End cast of Guys and Dolls, singer Gregory Porter and classical guitarist Milos to the world-famous stage. (R)
12.45	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	The Hungry Sailors. Dick and James Strawbridge mark their return to the Cornish mainland by preparing a Wild West-style dinner at the Minack Theatre, before competing to make the best samosa. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4	
6.05	Adventure Racing: AWRs China. Extreme sports highlights.
6.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray encounters an old enemy. (R)
6.55	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
7.20	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
7.45	Frasier. Niles receives an exciting proposal from Maris. (R)
8.15	Frasier. (R)
8.40	The Big Bang Theory. (R)
9.05	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon is driven to distraction when a tune becomes stuck in his head. (R)
9.35	The Simpsons. Bart suspects Ned Flanders of murder. (R)
10.05	The Simpsons. Santa's Little Helper sires puppies. (R)
10.35	The Simpsons. Bart tries to get the school closed down. (R)
11.05	FILM: Holiday in Handcuffs (2007). Romantic comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart and Mario Lopez.
12.50	Come Dine with Me Christmas. A festive celebrity special of the culinary competition. (R)
1.20	Come Dine with Me Christmas. Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington hosts a Winter Games-themed dinner party. (R)
1.55	Come Dine with Me Christmas. Actress Jennifer Ellison hosts the third dinner party. (R)
2.25	Come Dine with Me Christmas. Alex Carter's Indian-themed curry menu meets mixed approval. (R)
2.55	Come Dine with Me Christmas. Mrs Moneybags hosts the fifth and final party of the contest. (R)
3.30	Grand Designs. A house that resembles a giant snake. (R)
4.30	Best Laid Plans. Charlie Luxton faces one of his biggest builds to date.
5.35	Channel 4 News.
6.00	Word of the Year. Susie Dent is joined by Jo Brand, Sara Pascoe, Nish Kumar, Aisling Bea, Rick Edwards and Jamie Laing to reveal which contemporary term has been named "Word of the Year" for 2017.
7.00	Guy Martin vs the Robot Car. The presenter explores the world of automated self-driving vehicles, attempting to build one of his own and taking on a computer-controlled car in a race. (R)
8.00	The World's Most Expensive Presents. Cameras follow craftsmen and women producing lavish gifts with price tags to match, including a 24-carat gold-plated bike worth £250,000. (R)
9.00	FILM: Pitch Perfect (2012). A college freshman joins an a cappella singing group made up of social misfits to compete in campus music competitions. Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson.
11.10	FILM: The Inbetweeners Movie (2011). Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil head to Greece for a wild holiday – but things do not go to plan. Comedy, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.
1.00	FILM: Tomorrow, When the War Began (2010). Action adventure, starring Caitlin Stasey.
2.40	The Last Leg. (R)
3.35	Hollyoaks.
5.40	Extreme Cake Makers. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Milkshake! Monkey 6.45 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.10 Olly the Little White Van 7.15 Milkshake! Bop Box 7.20 Milkshake! Bop Box 7.25 Fireman Sam 7.35 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.15 Paw Patrol 8.30 Nella the Princess Knight 8.50 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.35 Peppa Pig
9.50	The Gadget Show. (R)
10.45	FILM: Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey?! (2014). Comedy sequel, starring Martin Clunes.
12.55	FILM: One Christmas Eve (2014). Family comedy, starring Anne Heche.
2.40	FILM: Love Always, Santa (2016). Festive romance, starring Marguerite Moreau.
4.25	FILM: Mariah Carey's A Christmas Melody (2015). Premiere. Musical fantasy, directed by and starring the singer.
5.25	5 News Update.
5.30	FILM: Mariah Carey's A Christmas Melody (2015). Concluded.
6.05	Sinkholes: Buried Underground. Documentary examining the underlying forces behind sinkholes, which can swallow streets, rip up motorways and even drag unfortunate bystanders to their deaths. (R)
7.00	Sinkholes: Sucked Under. Geologist Tom Backhouse investigates sinkholes caused by collapsed mine shafts, including one in Gosforth that opened up in front of a flat and led down to an abandoned mine. (R)
8.00	Sinkholes: Sucked to Death. The documentary examining sinkholes concludes with a look at an incident in which 53 houses in St Albans were effectively cut off from the rest of the city. Last in the series. (R)
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Hull City and Sunderland v Fulham.
10.00	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Doncaster Rovers v Oldham Athletic and Exeter City v Stevenage.
10.30	NCIS: New Orleans. Pride investigates a murder on board a deep-sea oil rig, but his life is placed in peril when the team discovers a gas leak on-site is about to cause a catastrophic explosion.
11.20	NCIS: New Orleans. Pride faces a conflict of interests when a hacker collective led by one of his old contacts is implicated in the theft of thousands of classified government files.
12.15	SuperCasino.
3.10	Harrogate: A Yorkshire Christmas. (R)
4.00	Harrogate: A Yorkshire Christmas. (R)
4.50	House Doctor. (R)
5.15	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40	Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)
5.55	Access. (R)

December 17

sunday



Toy Story 2
2.50pm
Buzz Lightyear races to rescue Woody when he is stolen by a toy collector planning to sell him to a museum. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.



Match of the Day 2
10.30pm
Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring West Bromwich Albion v Manchester United at the Hawthorns and Bournemouth v Liverpool at the Vitality Stadium.



The Chase: Celebrity Special
5.45pm
Mathew Horne, Danny Care, Jodie Kidd and Al Murray answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. With Bradley Walsh. Last in the series.



Coastal Railways with Julie Walters
8pm
The actress travels from Cardigan Bay to Liverpool, visiting the heritage railway that inspired Thomas the Tank Engine and the fastest zip wire in Europe.



Criminals: Caught on Camera
12.55am
Journalist Nick Wallis discovers how essential surveillance cameras have become in the fight against crime and features footage of people caught red-handed.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
7.35	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal v Newcastle United. (R)
9.00	The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00	Fern Britton Meets Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin. The Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons discusses being responsible for the spiritual welfare of MPs and her struggles against racism and sexism. Last in the series.
11.00	Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
12.15	Bargain Hunt. Antiques experts Christina Trevanion and Kate Bateman help two teams search for items at the Kent County Showground in Detling. Tim Wonnacott presents. (R)
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Mary Berry's Country House Secrets. Mary visits the March family at Goodwood House, famous for their iconic horse racing and motor racing events, and is taken on a lap of Goodwood motor circuit. Last in the series. (R)
2.15	Songs of Praise. The presenters choose their favourite Christmas carols. Plus, Sean Fletcher visits the Hospital of St Cross to find out about their tradition of giving food to pilgrims.
2.50	FILM: Toy Story 2 (1999). Buzz Lightyear races to rescue Woody when he is stolen by a toy collector planning to sell him to a museum. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
4.20	Blue Planet II. The impact of humans on aquatic wildlife, from albatrosses unwittingly feeding their offspring plastic to communications between animals disrupted by noise. Last in the series. (R)
5.20	BBC News.
5.35	Midlands Today; Weather.
5.45	Countryfile. Ellie Harrison explores her home county of Gloucestershire, and presents clips from previous episodes in which guest stars discuss their favourite parts of the countryside.
6.45	Sports Personality of the Year 2017. Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present this year's ceremony live from the Echo Arena in Liverpool.
9.00	The Apprentice. The two finalists take on their last challenge to win an investment from Alan Sugar, with contestants from the series returning to aid them in their endeavours.
10.00	The Apprentice: You're Hired. Rhod Gilbert is joined by the winner, the runner-up and Lord Sugar himself, as the business tycoon reveals the reasons behind his final decision. Last in the series.
11.00	BBC News.
11.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
11.30	Ronny Chieng: International Student. Ronny prepares for his final exam. Wei Jun lends him her course notes on the condition that he does not share them with anyone else – but he ends up losing them. Last in the series.
11.55	Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.00	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.05	Coast. Nick Crane visits the historic walled citadel of St Malo. (R)
7.05	Gardeners' World. James Alexander-Sinclair visits Borde Hill Garden in West Sussex. (R)
7.35	The Secret History of the British Garden. Gardening over the past 100 years. Last in the series. (R)
8.35	Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker present the show from the Norfolk-Suffolk border. (R)
9.30	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
11.00	Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas. Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (R)
11.30	My Life on a Plate. Russell Grant revisits places from his childhood. (R)
12.15	MOTD2 Extra. Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00	Jane Fonda: Talking Pictures. Profiles of stars of the silver screen.
1.30	Live Equestrian: Olympia 2017. Coverage of the sixth day of the Olympia International Horse Show.
4.35	Ski Sunday. Including the women's World Cup downhill race from Val d'Isere.
5.20	FILM: Nativity! (2009). Comedy, starring Martin Freeman.
7.00	Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan. The wildlife cameraman visits the town of Churchill on the shores of Canada's Hudson Bay, where packs of polar bears gather every autumn to prepare for their winter hunt. (R)
8.00	James May's Toy Stories: The Motorcycle Diaries. The Top Gear presenter sets out to build a motorbike and sidecar entirely out of Meccano and complete a lap of the Isle of Man's TT circuit with passenger Oz Clarke. (R)
9.00	The Alternativity. Documentary about the making of a contemporary performance inspired by the nativity story.
10.00	Detectors Christmas Special. Lance has failed to detect even so much as a ring-pull in months, leaving Russell to suspect he has been cursed.
10.30	Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring West Bromwich Albion v Manchester United at the Hawthorns and Bournemouth v Liverpool at the Vitality Stadium.
11.30	Insert Name Here. Katy Brand, Ed Gable, Suzannah Lipscomb and Amol Rajan join captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer Sue Perkins' questions about famous people who share a name. (R)
12.00	Talking Pictures: Roger Moore. A profile of the actor, who found fame as Simon Templar in the ITV spy thriller series The Saint, before entering cinematic history as James Bond in seven successive 007 films. (R)
1.00	Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Barnsley, chaired by David Dimbleby, with panellists including Conservative MP Nicky Morgan and Labour MP Rebecca Long-Bailey. (R)
2.00	Sign Zone: Holby City. Fletch calls in outside assistance for a beleaguered Darwin. (R)
3.00	This Is BBC2. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITY: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dana 7.00 Mission Employable 7.05 Oddbods 7.10 Thunderbirds Are Go
7.30	Scrambled! Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled! The Tom and Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.50	Scrambled! Ben 10.
8.10	Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. A cat hampers Bean's decorating plans. (R)
8.30	Scrambled! Tom and Jerry: Santa's Little Helpers.
9.00	Scrambled! Wishfart. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. A three-hill walk in West Dorset. (R)
9.55	Countrywise Winter Wonderland. Exploring what makes this time of year special for Britain's countryside. (R)
10.40	The Martin Lewis Money Show. Advice on mortgages. (R)
11.10	Save Money: Good Food. Matt Tebbutt tries to get a family to make more with their leftovers. (R)
11.40	How to Spend it Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield. Advice on food, drink and decoration for December 25. Last in the series. (R)
12.40	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.45	FILM: Step Up (2006). An aspiring ballerina and a street-smart teenager pair up for a dance project and love begins to blossom between them. Romantic drama, starring Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan.
2.50	Midsomer Murders. John Nettles' final episode. (R)
4.45	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
5.45	The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Mathew Horne, Danny Care, Jodie Kidd and Al Murray. Last in the series.
6.45	The Chase: The Bloopers. Bradley Walsh presents a compilation of outtakes from the quiz show.
7.40	ITV News Central; Weather.
7.50	ITV News and Weather.
8.00	FILM: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013). The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally face the dragon that stole their homeland. Part two of the fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen.
11.05	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
11.25	Through the Christmas Keyhole. Keith Lemon hosts a Christmas special of the game show, as celebrity panellists Shayne Ward, Kelly Brook and Johnny Vegas are asked to identify the homes of the rich and famous. (R)
12.15	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Tenable. Five accounts managers from Harrogate, North Yorkshire answer questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Hosted by Warwick Davis. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.
5.05	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4	
6.10	3rd Rock from the Sun. Dick's relationship needs a boost. (R)
6.35	3rd Rock from the Sun. Dick fights for animal rights. (R)
7.05	Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert asks Ray to lend him a suitcase. (R)
7.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray gives Robert a second bachelor party. (R)
7.55	Everybody Loves Raymond. Part one of two. Robert and Amy prepare to tie the knot. (R)
8.25	Frasier. Martin beats Frasier at chess. (R)
8.55	Frasier. The Crane brothers clash. (R)
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With guests Sean Lock, Bill Bailey, Pearl Mackie and Al Murray.
12.30	Paul Hollywood: A Baker's Life. The Great British Bake Off judge looks back at his early career. (R)
1.00	Jamie's Ultimate Christmas. Jamie Oliver demonstrates dishes for the festive season. (R)
2.05	The Simpsons. With the voice of Eric Idle. (R)
2.35	The Simpsons. Homer becomes a food critic. (R)
3.05	FILM: Jingle All the Way (1996). Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
4.50	Born Silly. Hidden camera show in which parents play pranks on their children.
5.20	Channel 4 News.
5.50	FILM: Miracle on 34th Street (1994). Christmas family drama remake, with Richard Attenborough.
8.00	Coastal Railways with Julie Walters. The actress travels from Cardigan Bay to Liverpool, visiting the heritage railway that inspired Thomas the Tank Engine and the fastest zip wire in Europe. Last in the series.
9.00	Inside Bentley: A Great British Motor Car. Documentary going behind the scenes at the car company's plant as work gets underway on a range of 4x4s, from the factory floor to the world's most exclusive car showroom.
10.00	FILM: Die Hard (1988). A New York cop battles armed men who have taken over a Los Angeles skyscraper where his wife is working on Christmas Eve. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman.
12.35	FILM: Mercury Rising (1998). An FBI agent shields an autistic child from government assassins after the boy cracks a supposedly unbreakable top-secret code. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Alec Baldwin.
2.25	FILM: I Origins (2014). A biologist believes he has discovered a shocking secret about the human race while investigating the evolution of eyes. Drama, starring Michael Pitt and Brit Marling.
4.10	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer catch up with a family who were looking for a seaside home in Broadstairs, Kent, and a couple of first-time buyers in Edinburgh. (R)
5.05	Extreme Cake Makers. Molly Robbins makes a celebration cake for a flamboyant customer to help him celebrate 35 years as a drag artist, complete with 50 edible peacock feathers and 3,000 gold flowers. (R)
5.35	Countdown. Words-and-numbers game, with Paul Zenon in Dictionary Corner. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.15 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Milkshake! Monkey 6.45 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.50 Simon 6.55 Paw Patrol 7.10 Puffin Rock 7.15 Milkshake! Bop Box 7.20 Fireman Sam 7.35 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.15 Paw Patrol 8.30 Nella the Princess Knight 8.50 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig
10.00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Raphael loses his confidence. (R)
10.35	Football on 5: The Championship. Including highlights of Cardiff City v Hull City. (R)
11.30	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Including action from Doncaster Rovers v Oldham Athletic. (R)
12.00	FILM: Season's Greetings (2016). Festive comedy, starring Laura Bell Bundy.
1.50	FILM: Twelve Trees of Christmas (2013). Drama, starring Lindy Booth.
3.35	FILM: Our First Christmas (2008). Family drama, starring Julie Warner.
4.35	5 News Update.
4.40	FILM: Our First Christmas (2008). Concluded.
5.20	5 News Weekend.
5.25	FILM: A Heavenly Christmas (2016). Premiere. Festive romance, starring Kristin Davis.
7.10	FILM: Legally Blonde (2001). A dizzy teenager enrolls at Harvard to try to prove to her ex-boyfriend that she is not stupid, but finds herself out of her depth. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson.
8.10	5 News Update.
8.15	FILM: Legally Blonde (2001). Concluded.
9.00	Agatha Christie's Crooked House. Adaptation of the mystery novel, starring Max Irons and Terence Stamp. A man returning to London from Cairo investigates the poisoning of his fiancée's grandfather.
11.00	FILM: Sleepy Hollow (1999). A sceptical 18th-century detective takes on a headless horseman who decapitates his victims. Tim Burton's gothic horror, with Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci and Miranda Richardson.
12.55	Criminals: Caught on Camera. The use of CCTV to fight crime. (R)
1.15	SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	Top 20 Funniest. A countdown of the funniest video clips in America, from those that went viral to home movies, pranks, surveillance footage and news bloopers. (R)
4.00	My Mum's Hotter Than Me! A soon-to-be grandma who keeps up her looks with Botox. (R)
4.50	House Doctor. A bland property near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. (R)
5.15	Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)
5.40	Chinese Food in Minutes. Steamed wine sea bass. (R)
5.55	Access. Showbiz news and gossip.

Local Specialists

Property Renovation

Complete Property Renovations

Call Steve now for a FREE no obligation quote

01691 680443 / 07970 357619 / cprchester.com

- Bathrooms, Kitchens, Plastering, Electrical Plumbing & Tiling
- From design to installation we do it all (big or small!!)
- Fully insured with over 30 years experience

NO VAT

Driveways & Patios

Wyevale Property Care

Driveway Services:

- Tarmac
- Resin driveways
- Block Paving
- Artificial Grass
- Fencing

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO: www.wyevaleproperty.com

PHONE: 01691 575456

FREE PHONE: 0800 612 1072

EMAIL: info@wyevaleproperty.com

SY108EL.


Furniture Repairs

Upholstery and Repairs

Specialist Service for all Antique, Traditional and Modern Furniture

Call John for friendly professional advice on how I can make your worn out furniture look like new again.

Furniture Medic Shrewsbury | Tel: 01952 511942



Taxis

OSWESTRY CABS

Why pay more for door to door

Locals - Long Distance

Airports - Contracts

Airport Shuttle Service

Single journey to or from Oswestry

	Taxi Estate Car 4 Seats	Minibus 5 to 8 passengers
Manchester	£59.00	£82.00
Liverpool	£59.00	£82.00
Birmingham	£82.00	£110.00
Shrewsbury	£50.00	£60.00
Wrexham	£45.00	£54.00

Night Out Returns
Taxi has 4 seats to 4 passengers

01691 661663

At Your Service

Local Specialists



Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Most ads are legal, decent, honest and truthful.

In 2016, the ASA removed 4,824 that weren't.

REACH CUSTOMERS ON THE MOVE



Advertise your business on the **NEW LOOK** Shropshire Star website

www.shropshirestar.com

To find out how you can benefit call MNA Digital on 01902 319730

Grandland X is very well put together

By Carmel Stewart

The Grandland X is an important vehicle for Vauxhall, completing as its does the company's crossover trio of SUVs which began with the mid-sized 4WD Mokka X, followed by the compact 2WD Crossland X.

You would be forgiven for thinking that the Daddy of the range was a robust 4x4 but, in fact, it comes in 2WD only with an optional electronic grip control which adapts the torque distribution for optimum traction, depending on which of the driving modes has been selected – normal, snow mud or sand.

Similar in styling to the slightly smaller Mokka X, the Grandland X has a robust stance, with accentuated wheel arches and a wide front grille with a sill plate below plus slim LEDs front and rear. A high waist and chrome highlights add an aerodynamic appeal.

Inside where there is space enough for five occupants, the driving position is elevated, the modern, well laid-out dash uncomplicated and the ambient lighting tastefully sufficient.

At the rear there is 514 litres of easy-load boot space which ups to 1,652 litres with the rear seat backs dropped down.

Engine choices are confined to two turbo units – a 1.2litre 130ps three-cylinder turbo petrol and a 1.6litre 120ps four-cylinder turbo diesel. Both can be combined with either a six-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission. Selection will come down to personal preference, with the diesel returning an official average of 70.6mpg mpg and the petrol 54.4mpg on 17-inch wheels. More engine options will be added next year.

On the road there are no real highs or lows. The ride is comfortable, the cabin quiet, the engines more than adequate, although the



With the rear seats down there's 1,652 litres of boot space



Getting connect is easy in the Grandland X

suspension is not as all absorbing as some of its rivals.

The Grandland X, while not exciting to drive, is well put together with a very decent standard spec. It will deliver its occupants to their required destination in unruined comfort but it is entering into a very tough SUV market place which has doubled in size during the past six or seven years. Its rivals are long-established, so Vauxhall will need to sharpen

its automotive elbows if it is to make an impact with this model.

But the newness of the Grandland X can also be considered a plus as many buyers like to drive the latest model and it is following in the tyre treads of the increasingly popular Mokka X.

Its specification list includes all the driving aids of any self-respecting modern vehicle: automatic cruise control with pedestrian

detection and automatic emergency braking, driver drowsiness alert, and advanced park assist plus the option of a heated steering wheel, heated front and rear seats and smart tailgate, that opens with a flick of the foot.

All that, oh so vital, fingertip connectivity is also available through Vauxhall On Star, so you not only have automatic crash response alerting the emergency services should the airbags be deployed but can also book an

hotel room, find a parking space and charge your smartphone wirelessly as well as access emails, phone messages, Google maps and the like thanks to the Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration.

Prices start at £22,310 with LED daytime running lights, camera-based lane departure warning, road sign recognition, sat nav, eight-inch touch screen and air con all fitted as standard.



Grandland X has a robust stance, with accentuated wheel arches and a wide front grille

Welsh Walls Car Sales

Part of E M Hughes Auto Centre

www.welshwallscarsales.co.uk

61	MERCEDES C200 SE CDI BLUE EFFICIENCY AUTOMATIC, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, 2 KEYPERS 73K.....	£9,950
62	FORD FOCUS TITANIUM ECONETIC TDCI, BLACK, FULL SERVICE, HIST. £20 ROAD TAX, 40K.....	£7,995
63	VAUX. INSIGNIA TECHLINE 2.0 CDTI ECO S/S, MET. GREEN, SERV. HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX, 53K.....	£7,495
62	HYUNDAI I30 TOURER EST. 1.7 CRDI, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX, 35K.....	£6,995
62	KIA SOUL CRDI, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, 32K.....	£6,695
15	PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER £20 ROAD TAX, 27K.....	£5,995
61	CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE XTR HDI, BLUE MET., ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 66K.....	£5,995
61	CITROEN C4 VTR-HDI 91, BLUE, £20 ROAD TAX 49K.....	£5,495
60	CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI EXCLUSIVE, MET. GREEN SERV. HISTORY £30 ROAD TAX, 53K.....	£5,125
09	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K.....	£5,184
10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE, 5 DOOR, MET. BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY 61K.....	£5,095
61	FIAT 500 LOUNGE, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY.....	£4,999
63	FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING £30 ROAD TAX 10K.....	£4,995
10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K.....	£4,995
12	SKODA FABIA SE 12V, BLACK, ALLOY, WHEELS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 39K.....	£4,995
13	FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK, BLACK 34K.....	£4,695
10	CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, £20 ROAD TAX 52K.....	£4,695
60	CITROEN C3 PICASSO AIRDREAM HDI, SILVER, AIR CON., CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY 59K.....	£4,695
60	FORD FOCUS ZETEC AUTOMATIC, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 34K.....	£4,495
06	VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 60, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY 64K.....	£4,395
10	FORD FIESTA EDGE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, SILVER, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 63K.....	£4,295
10	TOYOTA YARIS TR 1.4 D-4D, 6 SPEED, BRIGHT RED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY £20 ROAD TAX 61K.....	£4,250
57	MINI HATCH ONE, 6 SPEED, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 52K.....	£3,895
08	FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 75K.....	£3,795
08	TOYOTA YARIS TR, SILVER, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 68K.....	£3,495
06	MINI COOPER, SILVER/BLACK ROOF, HALF LEATHER SEATS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 43K.....	£3,495
57	SKODA FABIA 1.2, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., 28K.....	£3,195
56	FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 58K.....	£2,750

TO CLEAR

52	FREELANDER S, 3 DOOR, BLACK, MOT UNTIL OCT. 2018 86K.....	£1,495
54	HYUNDAI GETZ CDX, 5 DOOR, SILVER, MOT UNTIL NOV. 2018 109K.....	£500

COMMERCIAL NO VAT

62	FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM 270 ECO-TECH, RED, SIDE DOOR 54K.....	£8,995
59	VW TRANSPORTER T28 TDI SWB, RED 74K.....	£8,995
60	FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 90 T230, WHITE, LWB, HIGH TOP, SERVICE HISTORY 76K.....	SOLD

COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT

13	TOYOTA HILUX HL2 D-4D 4X4 DCB, WHITE, ONE, OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 58K.....	SOLD
64	PEUGEOT EXPERT HDI, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, AIR CON., SHELIVING IN REAR 40K.....	£7,795
14	FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 240 L2 LWB, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, DIRECT FROM NHS, ONE OWNER 69K.....	£7,595
15	CITROEN BERLINGO 625 ENTERPRISE, 3 SEATER, WHITE, AIR CONDITIONING, WINDOWS, SIDE DOOR, REAR PARKING SENSORS 19K.....	£7,295
15	CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 38K.....	£6,995
60	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 CDTI LWB, BLUE, AIR CON., ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 49K.....	£6,595
60	FORD TRANSIT 300S, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ROOF RACK, RACKING IN REAR, DIRECT FROM BT, SERVICE HISTORY 34K.....	£6,495
60	FORD TRANSIT 300S, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ROOF RACK, RACKING IN REAR DIRECT FROM BT, SERVICE HISTORY 36K.....	£6,495
11	VW CADDY MAXI C20 LWB TDI 102bhp, BLUE, ELEC. WINDOWS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, DIRECT FROM BRITISH GAS, SERVICE HISTORY 70K.....	£5,695
14	RENAULT KANGOO ML 19 EXTRA DCI 90 WHITE, AIR CON, REAR PARKING SENSORS, SAT. NAV. 37K.....	£5,650
63	PEUGEOT PARTNER PROFESSIONAL 1.6 HDI, 3 SEATER, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON. ONE OWNER 54K.....	£5,495
62	VW CADDY C20 PLUS Tdi, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 61K.....	£5,495
14	FIAT DOBLO CARGO 1.3 JTD 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS 59K.....	£4,495
61	REG.2012 VAUX. ASTRA VAN CLUB ECOFLEX 1.7 CDTI, WHITE, 6 SPEED, SERV. HIST. 78K.....	£3,795
62	PEUGEOT BIPPER S 1.3 HDI, BLUE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 60K.....	£3,695
08	VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDDTI 2000, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ROOF RACK, SERVICE HISTORY, DIRECT FROM BT 63K.....	£2,895
07	VAUXHALL COMBO 2000 1.3 CDTI VAN, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 58K.....	£2,695
06	FORD FIESTA TDCI VAN, WHITE 67K.....	£1,995

MOTOR BIKES

NEW	RIEJU RS3 125 LC NDK, PRE REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE, PRE-REGISTERED NEW.....	£2,850
NEW	KYMMCO SUPER 8 50cc, PRE-REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE, PRE-REGISTERED NEW.....	£1,250

PART EX AND FINANCE AVAILABLE SUBJECT TO STATUS. WE BUY CARS & VANS FOR CASH

CHIRK SERVICE STATION

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Tel: 01691 773428 or 07879 494480

15 MONTHS WARRANTY ON SELECTED VEHICLES

JAGUAR SELECTION

07	JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7 TD AUTO, 79,000 miles, blue metallic.....	£4,495
52	JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles.....	£3,995
V	JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN.....	POA

OTHERS

64	CITROEN DS3 STYLE Plus HDi Convertible, Deep Plum Metallic, Alloys, Low Mileage must be seen.....	£8,495
15	FORD FIESTA 1.5D ZETEC, Red.....	SOLD
09	MERCEDES CLK 220 AVANT GARDE CDI, Auto, 80k, Black.....	£5,295
06	BMW X3 2.0 DIESEL Black.....	SOLD
12	PEUGEOT 207 SW ESTATE, Diesel, Silver.....	£3,795
60	PEUGEOT 308 SPORT HDI Diesel, Black.....	£3,695
60	VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 35K.....	£3,395
07	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT, Black.....	£3,395
08	VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History.....	£2,975
09	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SPORT Limited Edition, Low Miles for year.....	£2,995
56	VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic.....	£2,895
56	TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player.....	£2,875
08	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE, Red.....	£2,595
54	FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver.....	£2,495
07	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 3DR, Silver.....	£1,695
54	VW POLO 1.4 5DR, Silver.....	£1,575
65	FORD FIESTA 1.5D ZETEC, 10k, grey metallic.....	SOLD

CONVERTIBLES

03	FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible.....	£1,795
04	VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver.....	£1,295

4X4/ COMMERCIALS

57	SSANGYONG REXTON 2.7 TDI, Silver.....	£3,575
03	ISUZU NKR CHASSIS CAB TIPPER, Diesel.....	SOLD
02	SMART FORTWO, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us.....	£1,450
04	RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA 4x4.....	£1,395

CHEAP AND CHEERFUL/PART EXCHANGE BARGAINS

06	FORD MONDEO TITANIUM Diesel. High Mileage.....	£1,995
55	PEUGEOT 206, 55K.....	SOLD
04	CITROEN C3 5DR, Diesel.....	£995
54	SMART FORTWO, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us.....	£995
W	BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us.....	£995
T	HONDA ACCORD, Auto.....	£995

LOW COST FINANCE AVAILABLE

Finance Example: Cash Price £3995 | Deposit or Part Exchange: £500 Balance £3495 | Payable over 48 months at £95.43 per month (APR 16.4%)

Subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. If your car is worth more than the deposit price, we will give you the difference back in cash.

Multi Make MOT & Repair Centre

- ✓ Full Diagnostics
- ✓ Air Conditioning Service
- ✓ Body Repair Centre
- ✓ All Insurance Work Guaranteed
- ✓ Free Estimates
- ✓ *Free courtesy car collection and delivery

Discount Tyres

High Performance & 4x4 Specialists

Largest Stock of Tyres in the area



How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarking recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German goiaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers.

And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

Increased effectiveness using newspapers

Retail	Automotive	Finance
2.8x	1.7x	5.7x

So, whatever the size your business or budget, get motoring into newspapers.

For the full story and more details:
newsworks.org.uk/effectiveness

Saints are back with a four-star home win

ST Martins put Wrens Nest to flight as they ran out comfortable 4-0 winners at Park Hall to boost their fortunes in the West Midlands League division one.

Leading 2-0 at the break, the Saints scored twice late on to seal the victory after their opponents had two players sent off early in the second half.

Having not played for two weeks, the home side made a slow start with their visitors from the West Midlands playing one touch passes and controlling the game.

The Saints, however, had the ball in the net in the 20th minute when a superb ball over the top was met by Brendon Price who controlled before slotting into the net only to see his effort ruled out for offside.

Having gone close to making the breakthrough, Dan Stevens' men were not to be denied seven minutes later when Elliott Howes drove through the defence before smacking his shot into the roof of the net.

Dave Hartshorn then doubled the lead three minutes before the interval when eluding the defence with some neat footwork before slotting into the bottom corner.

There was drama early in the second half when two Wrens Nest players saw red following a melee involving rival players after Calum Bennett had been brought down with a poor challenge.

With a two player advantage, the Saints went on to dominate the rest of the game, but had to wait until the final six minutes before adding to their tally.

A third goal arrived when Hartshorn latched onto an inviting pass and set up Harrison Millington to tap home, and in the last minute some superb team passing was finished off from close range by Price.

With no game last weekend, St Martins were due to head to Shrewsbury on Tuesday night to face Haughmond in the TJ Vickers Shropshire County Cup.

On Saturday, they visit Tipton Town in the West Midlands League division one as they look to maintain their climb.

Goal machine Barton leading the way again

SEASONED hot shot Danny Barton is showing he still has an eye for goal by leading the scoring charts in the Montgomeryshire League division one.

The Welsh Premier striker, more recently manager with Guilsfield, has netted 14 league goals to date for the club's reserve team.

He is two goals ahead of Llanfair United's Ashley Davies, while Llany-mynech's Ashley Davies is currently in third spot with 10 goals.

Other leading scorers in division one: Gaz Bromley (Bishop's Castle) 9, Jamie Evans (Four Crosses) 8, Shaheen Miah (Four Crosses) 7, Luke Francis (Guilsfield) 7, Andrew Gwillt (Waterloo) 7, Martyn Ziemann (Bishop's Castle) 6, George Mellor (Bishop's Castle) 6, Tyler McCarthy (Maesyrhandir) 6, Charlie Proctor (Waterloo/Trewern) 6, Harry Jones (Maesyrhandir) 6, Shaun Roberts (Trewern) 6, Sam Jones (Bishop's Castle) 5, Ben Simms (Four Crosses) 5, Mark Davies (Guilsfield) 5, Kamal L Jones (Maesyrhandir) 5 and Dylan Ellis (Four Crosses) 4.

Llangedwyn's Josh Evans is top of the shots in division with 17 goals, two more than Llanrhaeadr's Huw France, while Josh Gethin, of Forden, is third on 14.

Other top scorers: Michael H-Smith (Forden) 12, Sukru Ozdemir (Abermule) 11, Ryan Broadbent (Llanrhaeadr) 10, Dean Jones (Llangedwyn) 8.

Frozen-off TNS see lead cut at the top

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

WITH The New Saints frozen out by the cold weather, title rivals Connah's Quay Nomads seized their opportunity to close the gap at the top of the JD Welsh Premier.

The high flying Saints had been due to visit Bala Town, but the encounter was postponed with four inches of snow lying on the 3G pitch at Maes Tegid.

Their lay-off allowed Connah's Quay to reduce TNS' lead to four points as they moved into second place with a 5-1 hammering of Aberystwyth Town at the Deeside Stadium helped by two goals from former Saints striker Mike Wilde.

The Nomads took an early lead when Wilde headed home via the underside of the bar from a Michael Bakare cross, but the visitors were soon level when John Owen finished from a Malcolm Melvin pass.

Bakare restored the lead with a terrific 30-yarder and Wilde opened-up a two-goal cushion with his second header of the night from a corner just before the break.

Craig Hobson went close for the Seasiders, but the win was sealed in the 70th-minute when another former TNS player, defender Kai Edwards, was left with a simple tap-in from Matty Owen's pass.

Substitute Melford Simpson rubbed salt in the visitors' wounds with a fifth goal in stoppage time just 30 seconds after coming off the bench.

The Nomads' victory sets the scene for their top of the table showdown away to the Saints on Friday night.

Sidelined

Cardiff Met University, who themselves were looking to keep the pressure on TNS, were also sidelined by the weather as their encounter at Newtown was postponed after snow left the 3G pitch at Latham Park unplayable.

Bangor City moved up to third position - also four points behind TNS - after finishing 1-1 at Barry Town United.

The November player of the month Dean Rittenberg tucked away Gary Taylor-Fletcher's through ball on 27 minutes to hand the Citizens the lead.

However, the south Wales hosts equalised through a Kayne McLaggan penalty just past the hour mark, and that was how the scoring stayed.

At the other end of the table, bottom club Carmarthen Town halted their losing streak in a goalless home draw against Llandudno.

■ ■ ■ ■

Bala Town manager Collin Caton has been handed a two-match touchline ban by the FA of Wales.

The suspension is in relation to a charge Caton received for alleged improper conduct and language during his side's 2-1 victory against Aberystwyth Town back on November 17.

Good Evans! Lenny of to a flier



LENNY Evans marked his rise to the professional boxing ranks with a convincing victory in the Holte Suite at Aston Villa FC.
In his first first as a pro, the Maelor Boxing Club boxer took on Naheem Chaudhry from Leeds, and won all four rounds on points watched by family and friends.
Evans, who is now trained by one of Shropshire's leading coaches, Brian Robb, is pictured (centre) with Maelor BC coach Adam Hughes and head coach David Butch Jones.

League sharpshooters get back in action

SHOOTING by John Bridgwater

and Richard Lewis) held steady to finish the match with 202.9 points to Crew Green A's 202.4 - they don't come a lot closer than that.

The Admiral Rodney saw local upstarts Crew Green B shooting against a Guilsfield B team still looking to record their first victory this season.

Unfortunately for the visitors, they succumbed to the steady shooting of the Rodney's squad; led by Adam Hilditch's confident start of 35.3 CGB led from the off and gave no quarter, the match finishing 201.4 points to 189.1.

Third-placed Guilsfield A continued their winning streak when Castle Caereinion paid them a visit, their middle and lower-order putting intense pressure on the fourth-placed team.

Castle's Richard Morgan scored his customary possible, a 35.5, as did their second shooter Rob Williams (35.4).

Unfortunately for Castle the Guilsfield A brought their well-known pressure to bear and emerged triumphant, with possibles from Paul Phillips and Roger Knight.

The Cock Inn at Forden saw the Churchstoke team continue their run of wins as the host team went down despite a valiant effort.

The slew of possibles scored is as follows: D. Morgan (CGA) 35.1; Sue Brown (CGB) 35.2; Adam Hilditch (CGB), Edward Kelton (CGA), Jess Corbett (Newtown), Owen Stimpson (Churchstoke), Paul Gwilliam (Churchstoke) and Roger Knight (Guilsfield A) 35.3; Martin Pearce (Ardleen), Paul Phillips (Guilsfield A) and Rob Williams (Castle Caereinion) 35.4 and Castle Caereinion's Richard Morgan a superb 35.5.

Shooter of the week was Martin Pearce, whose 35.4 secured Ardleen the narrowest of victories.

Match of the week was the tight and close-fought showdown between Ardleen and Grew Green A.

Rangers boss says no to job at Drayton

ELLESMERE Rangers boss Richard Brown has turned the managerial post at Shropshire rivals Market Drayton.

Brown has guided Ellesmere to seventh in the West Midlands Regional Premier Division this season and Drayton have made it clear they want an ambitious manager with similar credentials.

Drayton have been looking for a new boss since last week's departure of Carl Abbott, who joined Leicestershire-based club Quorn just two months after his controversial appointment in place of Greenfields legend Martyn Davies.

Club secretary Rod Pope confirmed the club are looking to fill the post quickly after Brown's decision.

"The club spoke to Richard Brown of Ellesmere but he's not accepted the job, finances came into it," said Pope. "We're hoping that this week the club will have someone in place."

Town's chairman Ben Cockram also commented, saying: "Of course we are disappointed to learn Carl has decided to move on so soon after joining the club, but that's football at this level.

Ambitious
"We wish him all the best at his new club and they are incredibly lucky to have such an ambitious manager at the helm.

"The directors and I stand by the decision to appoint him; it was time to move on from the club's chaotic past and, while it is regretful that we have to revisit our plans so soon, we are looking forward to moving on with an equally ambitious manager as soon as possible."

Abbott's short tenure at the club was ill-fated. Players protested against the sacking of Davies and he won just two of his 10 games in charge.

They currently sit 17th in the Evo-Stik South league table. They've lost three league games on the bounce and have won just five out of their 20 league games this season.

Guilsfield and Welshpool get home draws

WELSHPOOL and Guilsfield have both landed home ties following the draw for the third round of the Central Wales Cup.

After byes in the second round, both now enter the competition with Pool welcoming Penrhyncoch and the Guils entertaining Machynlleth. Both ties will be played on December 30.

Full draw

Caersws v Aberaeron, Welshpool v Penrhyncoch, Guilsfield v Machynlleth (all ties to be played on December 30).

Knights Town v Berriew, Buith Wells v Llanidloes, Carno v Bow Street, Bishop's Castle v Llanfair United, Montgomery v Llanidloes Town, Llanymynech or Newcastle Emlyn v Four Crosses, Tywyn Brynug v Hay St Mary's, New Quay v Churchstoke, Radnor Valley v Llanrhaeadr, Llandrindod Wells v Borth, Waterloo Rovers v Presteigne, Dyffryn Banw v Brecon Northcote or Aberdilly, Fforden or Padarn United in Kerry (ties to be played on January 6).

Shropshire golf returns

Hill Valley

Turkey Trot: 1 J Fairlamb 39pts (12), 2 G Valentine 38pts, (12) 3 C Huxley 38pts (12).

Winter League: 1 M Fowles & N Ashley 48pts, 2 P Chidlow & M McCluskey 45pts, 3 R Wynn & P Dutton 44pts.

Ladies' NO nine hole Turkey Trot: 1 S Coupe 20pts (13), 2 S Wynn 16 pts (20), 3 C Ellwood 14 (20).

Llanymynech

Shotgun Foursomes (Daily Mail qualifier) December 3: 1 Dave Barbour & Gary Evans 79-13=66, 2 Mal Oakley & Colin Jones 76-9.5=66.5,

3 Basil Griffiths & Dave Caldwell 70-3=67, 4 Stuart Jones & Ian Rodger 74-6.5=67.5.

Christmas Comp 5 - South African Stableford (12 holes): 1 Don Bradley & Dave Hughes 65pts, 2 Chris Williams & Terry Williams 60pts, 3 Andy Roberts & Alan E Williams 59.

Clarke in runs as the Lions roar to victory

OSWESTRY'S Joe Clarke took his chance to fire England Lions to a convincing nine-wicket victory against a Western Australia XI in the first of four T20 fixtures.

The Worcestershire batsman relished the chance to open with Northamptonshire's Ben Duckett, and smashed 92 not out from 51 balls as the Lions cruised past 156-5 with nine wickets and seven balls left at Murdoch University ground.

Clarke hit 13 fours and three sixes with good support from Duckett's 38 off 39 balls and Essex's Lawrence with 28 not out.

England Lions batting coach Graham Thorpe said: "Clarkey timed the ball really well.

"He's opened for Worcestershire in T20 cricket and it's good to be able to give the guys the chance to play where they do for their counties. It was good to see him there at the end. That's something we try to drill into the lads."

The Lions' remaining T20 matches will all be against Perth Scorchers as Justin Langer's squad prepare for the Big Bash. Those games will complete the Lions' four-week training camp.

Going into the game, Clarke said he hoped to continue his big-hitting T20 from which saw him end the campaign as Worcestershire Rapids' highest run-scorer with 381 at 31.75. He was also their leading six hitter with 19 after switching to the opening role.

The highlight was 124 off just 53 balls against visiting Durham Jets for the second highest score by a County player in T20 cricket.

On becoming a real force in the shorter format of the game, the 21-year-old said: "It is the way T20 is going now.

"Most of your front-line batters have got to be able to clear the ropes and play all different kinds of shots.

"It is certainly something I reflected on and realised I wasn't good enough the year before and could be dropped from that T20 side.

"I had a point to prove this year and opening the batting came naturally to me. I worked hard on my power-hitting and trying to clear the ropes in the nets and middle practice.

"Thankfully it paid off and I was happy with my T20 form.

"This winter the Lions have got three T20 matches in Perth, then hopefully it (the form) continues next year with a better T20 campaign for Worcestershire and we can finally get to finals day. Hopefully I can be a major part of that."

Clarke, who played for Oswestry in the Birmingham Cricket League, has always maintained his desire to play for England - and the T20s form part of that ambition.

He added: "If I had another good season in T20 and knock on the door for higher honours in that format I'd love to play all formats for England."

Second string leave Moore the merrier

LUCA Owen-Youens led the way as Oswestry's second string pulled off a surprise 33-17 victory at high flying Moore to ease their basement worries in the North West League division four (south).

With no first team action, Owen-Youens made a guest appearance for the seconds, and made his mark with a couple of tries as well as four conversions in a valuable bonus point win.

On a heavy pitch against a big heavy physical team, the first priority for the visitors was to deny the home pack the ball and then ensure that the game was played in the Moore half.

The Eagles' half backs of Jake Smith at nine and fly half Rory Kershaw controlled the opening exchanges very well, and good quick ball allowed some

space for fullback Owen-Youens to run at the home winger before crashing over for a try in the corner.

Ten minutes later, Owen-Youens did exactly the same when leaving a trail of defenders in his wake to touch down for his second try. Oswestry kept up the pace with Johnny Hughes having an excellent game at No 8 and the newly arrived Fijian centre Dave Drose outstanding in both attack and defence.

And the newcomer, who was named man of the match afterwards, showed his credentials by crashing over for the third try.

Jake Smith managed a charge down just before half time to go over for the visitors fourth try, with Owen-Youens kicking three conversions during the half.

Playing against the elements in the second period, it was obvious that the big home pack would trundle the ball in the forwards.

This they did, and the league leaders put in a spell of punishing rugby that sapped the visitors' strength as they responded with three tries and a conversion.

However, Oswestry weathered the storm, and at the death Jake Smith broke from the base of a five metre s scrum to dive over the whitewash to seal a bonus points win.

Victory lifted the Eagles up to a respectable eighth position in a congested table, while Moore remain one point clear at the top despite the defeat. The Oswestry side are home to Macclesfield Fourth on Saturday.

Juniors shine bright in Sportshall Series

ATHLETICS by John Bridgwater

SOME fine individual performances and a superb team effort from the under-13 boys - who won their competition - were the highlights for Oswestry Olympians Juniors when they competed in the second Sportshall competition of the season.

In the event held at Much Wenlock and hosted by Telford Athletics Club, Markus Tins set the tone for the under-13 boys when coming third in the two-lap A event before Ben Rothera followed this up with second in the B race.

Massimo Wyatt kept up the momentum with another second in the three-lap A race, before Tom Hotchkiss went one better in winning the three lap B race - just one tenth of a second faster than his friend and teammate Massimo.

Both jumped standing long jump personal bests of over six metres to claim first and second places for Oswestry, with Massimo eventually beating Tom by two centimetres.

A competitive vertical jump saw Luke Steel secure third place, just two centimetres behind the competition winner and narrowly ahead of teammate Markus Tins.

Luke and Ben Rothera then combined to gain a third place in the six lap paarlauf. In an exciting two lap relay, spurred on by supportive parents, the Oswestry quartet of Ben Rothera, Luke Steel, Tom Hotchkiss and Massimo Wyatt came from behind to come a close second, but this was enough to secure first place for their team four points ahead of Wenlock Olympians.

For the first time this season, the under-13 girls were able to field a full team with Tamzin Guntrip and Lucy Othen making successful Sportshall debuts for the club.

They joined Mia Wyatt and Molly Tinney to ensure that Oswestry was represented in every event in their category.

Despite several boys being unavailable through other sporting commitments, the club's large number of junior members ensured a strong team could be entered in the under-11 boys category.

Top performer was Aaron Warburton who won all of his events including the relay when he, Ollie Rogers, Harry Cartwright and Freddie Heasmer-Jones won by a clear two seconds.

A victory in the two-lap B race for Ollie and a third in the A race for Freddie added to the haul of points before Aaron Warburton and Harry Cartwright stormed to victory in the six-lap paarlauf despite losing time through hesitation in one of the changeovers. The team's final placing of second was their best result of the season.

Late withdrawals resulted in Kate Hotchkiss being called up for her debut in the under-11 girls event.

She competed in the two-lap and chest push before joining teammates Seren Roberts, Jess Steel and Ellen Gray in the relay. The team's best result on the day was in the standing long jump in which Ellen Gray came second with a leap of 1.92 metres.

In the under-15 girls event, Lucy McGlinchey shone, winning the shot put when finishing one and a half metres ahead of her nearest rival.

Returning to the team after a two year break, Katie Othen showed she had lost none of her competitive edge with a very impressive second in a high quality two-lap race, while Anna Rothera added to the points with a third in the three-lap race to see the team ending up third in their category.

The Sportshall events take a break over the Christmas period before resuming action on January 14, again at Much Wenlock.



The U11 Olympians Girls team, Ellen Gray, Kate Hotchkiss, Seren Roberts and Jess Steel



The U 11 Olympians Boys who won their relay, Ollie Rogers, Freddie Heasmer-Jones, Harry Cartwright and Aaron Warburton

Shropshire cricketers on way to Morda Rd

MINOR Counties cricket will be coming to Oswestry's Morda Road when Shropshire host Wales next August.

The three day match was unveiled when the county announced their itinerary for the 2018 season - the first time in a number of seasons that the Oswestry club has hosted a three-day game.

Wales will make the trip to Morda Road between August 19-21 when the club will be hoping a good crowd to support the match.

Meanwhile, Shropshire will begin the season with a home tie at Whitchurch's Heath Road against Herefordshire in the first round of the revamped Unicorns Trophy on Sunday, April 29.

The winners of the match at Heath Road will be away to Staffordshire in the second round on Sunday, May 20.

A new Unicorns T20 competition will also be introduced this season, with Shropshire looking to progress from a five-team group.

The county will host Oxfordshire at Shrewsbury on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7 and Buckinghamshire at Whitchurch on Sunday, June 17.

Shropshire will also have T20 away group games against Berkshire at Wargrave on Sunday, May 6 and Herefordshire at Colwall on Sunday, May 27.

The county will begin their three-day campaign in the Unicorns Championship against Cheshire at Shifnal from June 24-26.

Three successive away games will follow against Herefordshire at Eastnor between July 8-10, Berkshire at Finchampstead from July 22-24 and Dorset at Bournemouth between August 5-7, and Devon at Bridgnorth between September 2-4.

Shropshire's popular annual hospitality day, the Pure Telecom Challenge, will take place at Wrekin College on Thursday, July 5.

Lack of refs a big problem say officials

MORE referees are desperately needed to safeguard the future of grassroots football in the region.

That's the warning of Montgomeryshire referees officer Gareth Lloyd after the shortage of match officials has seen a number of games postponed this season.

Referees have been calling time in their numbers over the past two years, blaming the abuse, both physical and verbal, they have received from players, officials and spectators.

Games have already been postponed this season with Lloyd calling the problem "chronic" with half of active referees in Montgomeryshire now aged over 60 years old.

"Unless steps are immediately taken to rectify the situation, there is a grave possibility that some clubs might not be able to finish their fixtures on time," he warned.

"I am appealing to clubs to look at their own clubs and within their vicinity and attempt to recruit at least one possible referee."

A course for referees is currently underway on Mondays at Welshpool Rugby Club (7pm).

Greenkeepers get some help

GREENKEEPERS of Shropshire bowls clubs could soon have their own self-help group.

The launch of the new body is the idea of Mid Shropshire League chairman Sean Round, who shares greenkeeping duties at Wellington club Bowring with Steve Parton.

He is keen to hold the first meeting early in the new year.

Williams the skipper again

SAM Williams has been re-appointed captain of Montgomery Cricket Club, with all rounder Aaron Ruff-Cock his deputy.

It follows a tough campaign for Monty who were relegated after just one season in the Shropshire League division one.

Brian Corfield will again lead the second string, with David Jones as his vice-captain as the team embark on a fresh challenge in the Shropshire League reserve division one next year following last term' promotion.

The club are always on the lookout for new players and anyone interested in joining ahead of next season should contact Sam on 07970-170086 or get in touch via the club's Facebook page.

Sport

Athletics
Olympians juniors
star indoors – P39

Rugby
Eagles seconds are
Moore merrier – P39



OSWESTRY SPORTS DESK 01743 283301

WWW.OSWESTRYCHRONICLE.COM

Clarke gets big chance in Australia

JOE Clarke seized his chance when getting a late call-up for England in their warm-up match ahead of this week's third Ashes Test in Perth.

The former Oswestry batsman, currently with the England Lions in Western Australia, was given the nod after Ben Duckett was withdrawn from the tour game due to disciplinary reasons.

And the Worcestershire player savoured the opportunity, hitting 45 to help England post 314-9 declared in the first innings against a Cricket Australian XI.

Containing seven boundaries and spanning 55 deliveries, it was his team's third highest individual score and, under the eyes of the selectors, would not have gone unnoticed.

Left handed opener Duckett had been left out of the two-day match after it emerged he had poured a pint of beer on England's leading Test wicket taker James Anderson in a bar in Perth. He was later suspended from the rest of the tour.

The England side, captained by Moeen Ali, initially struggled as they slumped to 172-7 following the loss of five wickets for 75 runs. But 21-year-old Clarke then helped rescue the tourists after featuring in a 92-run stand for the eighth wicket with Tom Curran who finished unbeaten on 77.

Cricket Australia replied with 151-4 declared, before England declared on 130-3 in their second innings with Clarke an unused batsman.

Chasing 294 to win, the Australians rattled along at a good rate, but finished on 269-8 in 36.5 overs as the game ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, another Oswestry player - all rounder Roman Walker - has also been making his mark on the international stage with England's under-19s.

Walker played in a number of Birmingham League games for the Morda Road men last term, and it was a proud moment when he made his debut for the England side in their win over Namibia in their Tri-Series in South Africa.

Guils braced for a big test with Rhyl

GUILDSFIELD aim to keep the leading pack in their sights when they prepare for Saturday's home Huws Gray Cymru Alliance encounter with Rhyl (2.30).

The villagers are well placed in fifth spot, just five points adrift of leaders Caernarfon Town and three points off Holywell in third.

Guils were without a game last weekend when their trip to Gresford Athletic was postponed due to the snow.

Under new management these days, Rhyl are chasing an immediate return to the top flight, but suffered a jolt with a last-gasp 5-3 loss to joint leaders Denbigh last weekend.

In the only other game played, Airbus UK moved up to third with a 4-3 success against Holyhead Hotspur.

Improving Town net monthly award

FC OSWESTRY Town's turnaround in fortunes in the Hallmark North West Counties League has been recognised with the club landing the division one team of the month award.

During November, they won five games, drew one and lost one - and that came with a last minute goal.

Their resurgence has lifted them up to 12th, having been toiling in the basement places for the early part of the campaign.

"It's fantastic achievement by everyone at the club after the start we made, but we've now got a tough December," said joint boss Ryan Butcher.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Town started November by drawing 1-1 away to Daisy Hill, then won 2-0 at home to Bacup Borough, 3-2 against visiting Camell Laird and 1-0 at Atherton LR.

They then defeated Ecclesfhal 3-0 in the second round of the Macron League Cup, were 3-2 victors at St Helens Town before their one defeat came right at the end of the month when edged out 4-3 at Litherland REMYCA.

The Oswestry side's hopes of gauging their

progress were frustrated on Saturday when they home meeting with runaway leaders Silsden was postponed with the Park Hall pitch under a blanket of snow.

Next up was an appetising derby at home to West Midlands League premier division side Ellesmere Rangers in the quarter-final of the Shropshire Challenge Cup on Tuesday - weather permitting.

Then, on Saturday, Town travel to Sandbach United in the Hallmark North West League division one with their hosts lying just outside the play-off places.

TNS FACE TOP OF TABLE TEST

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints will hope to beat the freeze as they target one of their chief adversaries Connah's Quay Nomads in Friday's top of the table affair at Park Hall (7.45).

Victory for the defending champions would see them open up a commanding seven point lead on their visitors - and with a game in hand - but defeat would see their advantage trimmed to just one point.

While the Saints' trip to Bala Town was postponed last Friday due to snow, the Nomads managed to beat the icy weather to hammer Aberystwyth Town 5-1 with former TNS striker Mike Wilde scoring twice.

That result, their biggest league win to date, saw last season's runners-up move into second spot in the table to stay in range of the pacesetters.

TNS boss Scott Ruscoe, however, is backing his side to deliver the goods in Friday's tussle - weather permitting - to maintain their pursuit of a seventh successive league crown, and 12th in all.

It promises to be another closely fought affair with the sides having already met twice this season at the Nomads' Deeside Stadium. The Saints were held to a 2-2 draw in the league, before securing a narrow 1-0 win just a few weeks back in the semi-final of the Nathaniel MG Cup.

Meanwhile, TNS' Welsh Cup fourth round tie away to Cymru Alliance Caernarfon Town has now been confirmed for Friday, January 26 (7.45 pm).

The sides have already met once this season, with the Saints prevailing 2-0 in the quarter-final of the Nathaniel MG Cup at Park Hall.

They also famously met at the Oval three seasons ago in the Welsh Cup, overturning a two-goal deficit to run out 3-2 winners.

Runners are Bangor smashers



The Oswestry Olympians ladies side at Bangor for the cross country race

AFTER the torrential rain of Llandudno, Oswestry Olympians runners headed to a cold and wet Bangor for the third race in the North Wales Cross Country Series

For the ladies, Sarah Greaves showed her pedigree to finish first in the 60, while as a team the ladies packed well with seven runners in the top 50.

That earned them a second overall finish, while they also finished first in the masters series

The men also battled well to come in third overall, and thid in the masters series, with Mike Kirk making a first start of the season.

Tom Heard, Pete Jones and Tim Tansley worked well together, while Brian Rothera and Julian Morgan-Ayres also finished within the top 50.

Bangor Results (Oswestry Olympians only)
Ladies: 22 Leonie Keeling 3rd 35; 25 Jacqui Gears 3rd 40; 33 Lou Williams 6th 35; 38 Amy Penn 10th SL; 46 Tania Brandon 3rd 50; 48 Yvonne Hill 4th 50; 49 Susie Hancock 3rd 55; 62 Victoria Hall 10th 35; 72 Sarah Morgan-Ayres 12th 35; 73 Ashling Donohoe-Harrison 16th SL; 79 Sarah Greaves 1st 60; 81 Jo Bliffen 19th SL; 100 Kelly Clarke 16th 40.

Men: Winner Callum Rawlinson (Bangor Uni). **Olympians results** - 21 Tom Heard 3rd 35; 22 Pete Jones 4th 40
29 Tim Tansley 4th 45; 30 Julian Morgan-Ayres 14th SM; 44 Brian Rothera 6th 45; 84 Steve Roberts 4th 60; 108 Mike Kirk 8th 55; 110 Craig Case 37th SM; 138 Lee Barnfield 19th 40.

COBRA still waiting to get back on pitch

COBRA'S long and frustrating wait for action in the Welsh League division two (north) continues after their trip to high flying Denbigh was postponed due to the icy weather.

The Meifod side have not played a league game since October 21 when they defeated Bangor 12-0, a run of inactivity that has seen them slip to fifth in the table.

Despite this, they remain only 10 points adrift of second placed Wrexham with three games in hand.

There was little prospect of any play last Saturday following the snow and ice that hit the region, leaving Denbigh's pitch unplayable.

The Llanfair club will be desperate to get back in action in the league on Saturday when they are due to host Llanidloes, one of their chief promotion rivals.

The club's young guns were also without a game as their home encounter with their Bala counterparts in the North Wales Youth League was postponed due to the icy weather.

Meanwhile, COBRA have been drawn away to this weekend's rivals Llanidloes in the quarter-final of the intermediate Cup.

In the other ties, to be played before February 17 2018, Denbigh entertain Rhyl, Nant Conwy host Pwllheli and Wrexham welcome Shotton.

WELSHPOOL'S basement showdown at Abergele was snowed off like the rest of the second division.

The two sides occupy the relegation zone, with Pool second from bottom and embarking on a stern test away to runaway leaders Denbigh on Saturday.

OSWESTRY, whose home fixture with Congleton in the South Lanes and Cheshire Two also fell victim to the elements, finish the first half of the season away to third placed Heaton Moor on Saturday.

The Eagles currently lie sixth in the table.

Only the one game survives big freeze

THE big weekend freeze decimated the footballing programme throughout Mid Wales and Shropshire.

Just one game survived in the Spar Mid Wales League, with Aberystwyth University losing 3-1 at home to Presteigne, while the Montgomeryshire League was a total wipe out.

Clubs will hope to get back to action on Saturday, with Spar division one leaders Welshpool Town aiming to tighten their grip on the summit at home to Radnor Valley (2.30).

Elsewhere, second placed Llanrhaeadr seek to keep up the pressure in the title chase when they welcome Llandrindod Wells to the Recreation Field.

Llanfair United, in fourth position, will be banking on three points away to rock bottom Machynlleth. Both games have a 2pm start.

GOLF MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL OFFER

please contact the secretary for further details

Oswestry Golf Club

Aston Park, Queen's Head,
Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4JJ
Tel: 01691 610535

Email: secretary@oswestrygolfclub.co.uk
www.oswestrygolfclub.co.uk

Published by the Oswestry Chronicle and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Limited, Ketley, Telford. Registered at the P.O. as a newspaper. Price when sold 70p

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2016 was 62.8%

